

WASHINGTON REPORT

by
Congressman
James T. Broyhill



RAILROAD DISPUTE

One of the very serious problems facing the country today is the threat of a national railroad strike which would shut down the nation's railroads for an indefinite period. Disputes between labor and management are traditionally left to the processes of free collective bargaining where agreement is reached after negotiation and compromise. In fact, this is very much a part of the American free enter-

prise system and virtually all legislation in this field has been intended to protect and strengthen this process.

With regard to the situation in the Railroad industry, however, tremendous problems have arisen. Bargaining and negotiation have broken down. How to avoid a strike and the serious consequences to follow has occupied the attention of both the White House and the Congress.

The President has advised the Congress that some means of public action must be sought to guard against the "continuing failure of private responsibility" in this case. President Johnson has explained that railroad strike of this kind would make the country vulnerable to a number of very serious dangers. In the first place, it would mean a disruption in the flow of arms and materials to the 500,000 fighting men in Southeast Asia who are today making sacrifices far greater than any other Americans are called upon to make. The President has also stated that such a work stoppage would result soon in food shortages and health hazards in our cities. He also predicts that a strike would cause a rising tide of unemployment as our factory doors close for lack of raw materials.

The dispute which has been going on for many months involves almost all major railroads of the country and six shop-craft unions who represent 137,000 railroad employees who inspect and repair locomotives and other rolling stock. Actually, the processes of collective bargaining and negotiation has produced agreements between the railroads and eleven other unions

Letter To The Editor

Statesville, N. C.
RFD 1
May 13, 1967

Dear Friends:

Saturday, each week, is my Red Letter Day. I receive the Cooleemee Journal! It makes me homesick to see my friends there. My latch string is outside for them.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones,

Anabel Foster
(Mrs. J. W. Foster)

which represent about 70 percent of the railroad workers in the United States. It might be interesting to discuss some of the background of this situation.

Most of the problem relates to wages and work rules. Last September 28, the services of the National Mediation Board were called into play when agreement could not be reached otherwise. The Board attempted to develop an area of agreement between the contending parties. However, on January 13th of this year, the Board reported that its efforts to mediate the dispute had failed.

Under the powers granted him by the Railway Labor Act, the President postponed a strike for 60 days, and appointed an emergency board to assist in the effort to solve the problems. Again, the effort was unsuccessful and the time allowable under the law for Federal action was due to expire on April 13. Had the Congress not extended the President's authority, a strike would have occurred then. At the time, the President planned to be out of the country for the meeting at Punta del Este and, as a result, he requested and obtained Congressional action extending Federal power to delay the strike.

During the past week, this period of time expired and, again the White House and the Congress were confronted with the possibility of a labor stoppage in the railroad industry. Again, the White House requested an extension. This time, the delay was for forty-seven days to permit additional time for possible agreement to be reached or the development of new legislation that would provide a legal mechanism to assure a settlement.

The White House has followed this recommendation quickly with proposed legislation which attempts to avoid compulsory arbitration and, at the same time, assure that the essential public interest is protected. This week, my committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will begin considering the President's proposal.

Out of this experience, it seems likely that a new step will be taken to deal with problems of this kind. It is still too early to predict exactly what the outcome will be or what the final provisions of the legislation will be. Nevertheless, I feel sure that this legislative proposal represents the growing interest and involvement of the general public in matters of this kind. In the coming weeks, we will hear more about the knotty problems that the Congress is attempting to solve in this situation. The fine line being sought is how to assure the protection of the public interest without resorting to compulsory arbitration or the seizure and operation of the railroads by the Federal government.

"PROBLEM" PATIENTS

Pills, pills, pills. Millions of people -- those who need them and those who don't -- take them all the time. What about those who do need them and don't take them? When the illness is a serious one -- for example, tuberculosis -- some problems and some dangers arise.

Since the early 1950's, when effective drugs were developed against TB, prolonged hospitalization of patients has been decreasing. The majority of known TB sufferers today are clinic outpatients. Their treatment consists mainly of drugs (usually in large quantities) provided by the clinic and taken daily at home.

Unfortunately the system doesn't always work smoothly. A patient with TB in mild form can feel fine and start wondering why he has to go on taking those endless pills. The people at the clinic whose job is to help him get well may forget that they are dealing, in some cases, with a person unaccustomed to carrying out strict instructions or perhaps unable to grasp them fully. Sometimes an extra effort is needed on the part of the clinic worker to put himself in the patient's place and try to bridge a gap in understanding or emotional conditioning.

Various methods have been tried for surmounting this "communications gap". Some clinics have supplied medication dispensers, with each day's supply of pills in a dated compartment. Others have experimented with "pill calendars" with the day's dose physically attached to each date. Dr. Thomas Moulding, of the National Jewish Hospital at Denver, suggests the possibility of supervisory home visits by nurses or health workers. Writing in the National Tuberculosis Association Bulletin, he acknow-

REVIVAL TIME

Dear brothers, it's revival time,
And not a time to nod,
If you would win from sin and crime
Those straying far from God;
And help backsliders straighten out
The wrongs that they have done,
That those who know them may not doubt
The victory they have won.

It's time to fast instead of feast,
It's time to seek God's grace;
Then from the largest to the least
Each one should fill his place,
And help to sing the blessed songs,
And pray the glory down,
That God may save the wicked throngs
in countryside and town.

It's time to turn away from sin,
Confess, repent and pray,
And let the Savior enter in
And save the lost today.
It's time to give old grudges up,
And pay old debts you owe,
If at the fountain you would sup
Where Gospel blessings flow.

It's time for members of the church
To heed the Gospel truth
Arouse themselves and go in search
Of wayward, wandering youth,
And children in their tender years,
And older people, too,
And win them by your love and tears
To Christ our Lord so true.

It's time to love each other more
And settle hate and strife,
If you would have your Father pour
His blessings on your life,
And send you forth with conscience clear
A face that's shining bright,
That you may bring to others cheer,
And heaven's holy light.

It's time to seek for pow'r Divine
That comes from God above,
Like saints who live and brightly shine
Through sanctifying love;
Who bless the world by winning souls,
And helping pilgrims rise
In faith to where the glory rolls
Across their inner skies.

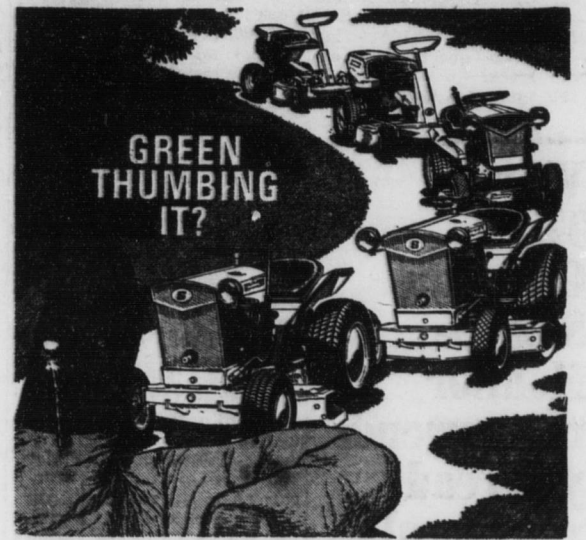
Walter E. Isenhour,

Taylorsville, N. C.

ledges that this would be expensive but points out that it would help free some public funds now spent on TB patient hospitalization. Anyway you look at it, TB

remains an important problem. Ask your Christmas Seal association for its free booklet, "Facts About TB and RD". Patronize Our Advertisers

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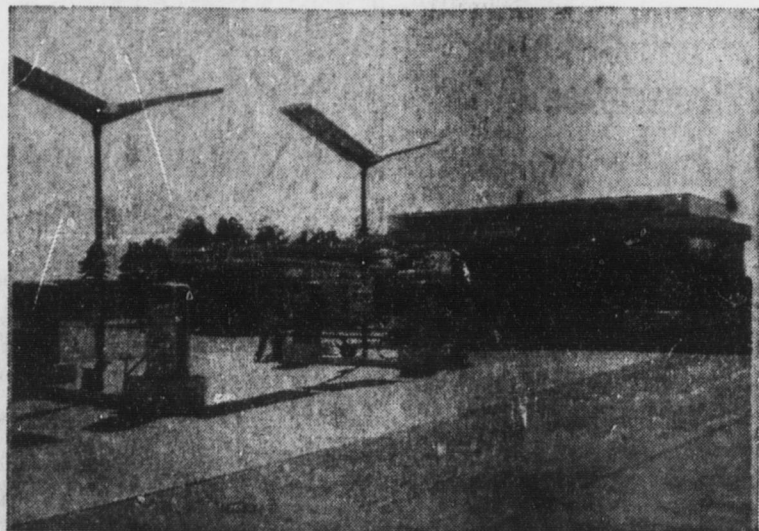
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