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**SENATOR  
 SAM ERVIN  
 SAYS**



WASHINGTON -- For more than a year now, a bill has been pending in the Senate to make it an unfair labor practice for labor unions to levy a fine against a person for refusing to engage in a concerted activity such as a strike.

While this bill, which was introduced by me and Senator Paul Fannin of Arizona, has been languishing in the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, some unions have continued to impose such fines and other economic sanctions against their members, which is contrary to principle of individual freedom in this nation.

To my mind, these fines constitute a direct abridgement of the individual right not to engage in concerted activities which is guaranteed by the Taft Hartley Act.

However, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled a few years ago in a decision involving the Allis-Chalmers Company that labor unions could go into state courts in order to collect these outrageous fines.

That ruling by the highest court in the land has had the effect of making legal the worst kind of coercion by labor unions over their individual members. In a case involving television performers, such compulsion took the form of fines amounting to \$18,000 per person.

During a recent case decided by the National Labor Relations Board, which has more or less been on the side of big unions for the past decade, a worker was fined \$500 for crossing a picket line during a four-week strike.

The union sued in a California court to collect the fine and was awarded a judgment of \$528 including costs against the worker. During the time he crossed the picket line, the member earned a net of \$511.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, a union member clearly is given the right not to engage in concerted activities such as strikes. To my mind, the Supreme Court should have read the Taft-Hartley Act exactly as it is written and outlawed the use of union fines.

However, the Supreme Court ruled in the Allis-Chalmers case that fines are internal union affairs and thus are not governed by the provisions of Taft-Hartley.

Under this interpretation, labor unions are free to coerce their members into almost any type of activity which can be construed as legitimate to the interests of the organization.

If an employee chooses to join a union, apparently he now abdicates his constitutional right to free speech, his right to peaceably assemble, his right to work, his right not to engage in concerted activities.

The member becomes nothing more than a pawn to be used as the officials of the labor union see fit. This is tyranny in its worst form.

I am hopeful that the Senate will soon see fit to pass my and Senator Fannin's bill, to make these union fines an unfair labor practice. By doing this, it will re-establish the right of the man who labors by the sweat of his brow to make a living and to enjoy the rights guaranteed him by the labor laws and by the United States Constitution. Freedom demands no less.

**THE FIRST COW FLOWN**  
 IN AN AIRPLANE WAS "ELM FARM OLLIE", A GUERNSEY, WHICH WENT ALOFT ON FEB. 18, 1930, WITH A CORPS OF REPORTERS. SHE WAS MILKED DURING THE FLIGHT AND THE MILK WAS SEALED IN PAPER CONTAINERS AND PARACHUTED OVER ST. LOUIS!



Bradley E. Ragan (center) Receives Checks From Sale Of Shares In Brad Ragan, Inc.

**Ragan, Inc. Is  
 'Pacesetter'**

Bradley E. Ragan, president and founder of Brad Ragan, Inc. recently received checks totaling \$4,830,000 from the investment banking firm of Hornblower & Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes thus formally completing the 350,000 share initial public offering of its stock. The checks were presented to Mr. Ragan by Raymond Z. Fabs, Jr., a vice president of Hornblower.

Part of the proceeds will be used to repay debt incurred by the Company to help finance growth. Another portion will be used to expand the Company's "off-the-road" tire retreading and replacement business. The balance of the funds received by the Company will be applied to working capital.

Brad Ragan, Inc. operates "off-the-road" tire retreading and replacement centers in eleven Eastern and Midwestern states, which retread by means of the Company's patented "BAND-LUG" process, large "off-the-road" tires commonly used on earth-moving and other heavy equipment. The Company also operates a chain of tire and appliance stores located primarily in North Carolina and is the largest independent domestic distributor of tires, batteries and accessories manufactured by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

Brad Ragan's retreading and replacement operations have been the pacesetter in recent years, due chiefly to the BAND LUG process which was developed by the Company in 1966. This process has been found to offer important advantages over conventional tire retreading methods.

**Notice**

If you haven't already brought your gift to "Operation Santa Claus" the Jaycees will have boxes for them in the downtown stores until Dec. 5.

**VIEWPOINT**

By Jesse Helms

**AGNEW CRITICS HAVE STOPPED LAUGHING**

Vice President Agnew's visit to Raleigh last month has revived memories of his last trip to our community almost exactly two years ago. There is the temptation to murmur the cliché that things have changed in the interim—and they have. Mr. Agnew was a candidate when he came in 1968, a virtual unknown, a pleasant man whom his opponents sought to characterize as a joke.

One recalls, for example, that the slick Madison Avenue advertising experts hired by Mr. Agnew's critics produced a television announcement two years ago which was sponsored on stations throughout the country. It consisted of a text reading, simply, "Agnew for Vice President." The sound track consisted only of giggles and guffaws. Yes, sir, they said then, Spiro Agnew was a joke.

Mr. Agnew's critics no longer laugh. They see him—and fear him—as a tough, competent man who has won the admiration of the country. Not only has Mr. Agnew been speaking the minds of millions of Americans, he has done it with the necessary courage and finesse to revive the art of political oratory. Those who oppose him most vigorously confess a private admiration not only for what he says, but the way he says it.

History is therefore obliged to record him as the country's most memorable Vice President. For one thing, he has brought a vast measure of enjoyment to politics. Everywhere in the country, Raleigh included, audiences delight in his stinging alliteration. For once, here is a political figure who can pour it on, with unusual rhetoric, plunging his syllables home with unmistakable directness and sincerity. The gentleman says what he means, and means what he says.

It can never be suggested that Mr. Agnew has trotted around the country with a gunny sack of clichés. Audiences don't yawn behind their hands when he speaks of Fulbright and Ted Kennedy, calling them "hopeless, hysterical hypochondriacs of history." The woods are full of politicians who have complained about the deterioration of education as a result of campus violence, but only Mr. Agnew has nailed college administrators for having "a paralyzing, permissive philosophy (pervading) every policy."

Spiro Agnew's greatest appeal is that he knows where he stands. And he stands there, firmly and fearlessly, regardless of the geography around him. He talks of "nattering nabobs of negativism" and he comes through loud and clear in Los Angeles as well as Atlanta. And they understand in both Tacoma and Richmond that an "effete snob" is something the country can very well do without.

Mr. Agnew has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the country that he likes nothing better than to tangle with his enemies. He has proved, on occasion after occasion, that he is their intellectual superior. Not anytime soon may we again expect to see student liberals agree to a public confrontation with him.

We may, of course, continue to see boorish, crude conduct by those who oppose Mr. Agnew. They may shout their obscenities in cowardly gangs, or attempt to disrupt his speeches with choruses of group epithets. If so, it will be—as it has already been—a self-defeating gesture. It will be a mark of their own inadequacy.

So, those who like their politics strong and straightforward welcome Mr. Agnew, regardless of party affiliation. He has, as we say, restored an almost lost dimension to politics; he has revived the art of political oratory. And, in the process, he has told the people what's wrong with their country. It was good to have him back amongst us.—AMERICAN WAY FEATURES