

Labor Union Power In 1948 Election Political Riddle

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON — Big political riddle of 1948 is how much weight labor unions will be able to throw around in the election. Beyond question, labor took an awful pasting in 1946. Instead of being a potent political force, labor leaders were shown up as a bunch of rank political amateurs. But now the Taft-Hartley Act has stirred up the animals. There are a half-dozen political movements within organized labor today. Whether they are just noise, or whether they have some political substance, is what the wisecracks are trying to dope out. Oldest of the lot is Labor's Non-Partisan League, whose front man is John T. Jones. In reality the head man is John L. Lewis of United Mine Workers. Lewis started the League when he was head man of CIO. It had home influence in 1936. But, when Lewis pulled away from Roosevelt, and the CIO pulled away from Lewis, the League began to decline. When Lewis switched to Willkie in 1940, he failed to deliver the votes of his miners. Today the League is pretty much of a political dead duck.

Next in line is the CIO's Political Action Committee, now headed by Jack Kroll. There is ample evidence that CIO-PAC learned a lesson from the beating it got in 1946. Since that time, biding its wounds, CIO-PAC has been working quietly but hard, out in the country, to build a real political organization from the bottom up. It has the making of a much more potent political force in 1948.

AFL Tradition Upset
A third political-labor movement is backed by the big, powerful, conservative, independent International Association of Machinists. Its new Machinists Non-Partisan Political League will, during January, hold a membership campaign and a drive to collect a million dollars. Primarily, the Machinists say they are interested in replacing the present Taft-Hartley Con-

Europe's Decline



Charted above is Europe's decline in major agriculture production based on UN statistics, which indicate the food situation on the continent will be worse this winter than even during the war years. Last winter's freeze and last summer's drought are partly to blame, along with lack of fertilizer and labor difficulties.

gress which, by its every action last year—on taxes, price and rent controls, as well as labor legislation—showed favoritism and obedience to employers. Eighteen of the railroad brotherhoods have formed the Rail-Labor's Political League, fourth of the movements now active. Its chairman is A. E. Lyon. Its objectives are to inform their million and a quarter

members on the voting records and qualifications of candidates from the labor point of view.

Finally, there is the new AFL Labor's Educational and Political League, which is asking its eight million members for "voluntary" contributions of a dollar to finance operations. Half of the money will be spent nationally, half locally.

Traditionally, ever since the days of Sam Gompers, AFL has stayed out of politics. This year the Federation's 105 international unions are in. Their main aim is to defeat every congressman who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947.

Thus far, there is no central direction and very little cooperation of these five political movements. Definitely, they are not seeking to form a labor party. There is no truck with the American Labor Party of New York, which is the sixth of these movements.

Potentially, there are some 20 million members of labor unions. That is enough balance of power to throw any national election—if it can be organized. The Republican attitude seems to be that it cannot be organized, and that labor's political power has always been overemphasized. There is considerable GOP sentiment that labor leaders can't sell their membership on the idea that the Taft-Hartley Act is anti-labor. So the whole political crusade will flop.

From the Democratic politicians' point of view, if labor is to be politically effective the union leaders must get over the idea that what they want has priority over every other interest. What they must learn to look out for is the national interest.

If the union labor leaders can get over their idea of just running a big publicity campaign, and get down to working with county chairmen and precinct committeemen, then the Democratic political leaders say they can do some good.

Training Offered for Airplane Mechanics

Training for airplane mechanics is offered by the Smith-Livingstone Air Services, Inc., located at the Corvallis Municipal Airport. The school is fully approved by the C.A.A. and the Veterans Administration. In the training period of 91 months, each student receives 1,920 hours of instruction in aircraft and aircraft engine maintenance, repair, and overhaul. Students receive closely supervised practical work and classroom and theoretical training.

Training is open to all who are interested. Previous educational training or lack thereof is not a barrier. Each student receives 48 hours of training each week, making it possible for veterans to receive full subsistence allowances. Barracks and restaurant facilities are available at the airport. Further information may be obtained from the school.

Marshall Plan Survey Requested by Senators

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tell us how best we can use our resources to give incentive to production abroad."

Taft States Objections
Taft said yesterday that he doesn't like President Truman's proposal for a program administrator abroad "because it makes the administration practically a bureau in the State Department and I think it should be a separate agency."

"I would like an administrator who is looking just as much to the economic welfare of the United States as he is to the economic welfare of Europe," Taft declared.

While this debate on the form of the Marshall Plan went on among returning legislators, Senator Barkley of Kentucky, the Democratic leader, urged that Congress "sink our teeth into it however unpleasant the taste."

Speaking from Paris on a Democratic party radio program last night, Barkley declared: "If we are to undertake it, let us do it well. Our own welfare and the peace of the world require it. It will be an investment in world security which... will be definitely cheaper in dollars to the American people than another war which might see the destruction of civilization itself."

LOCAL NEWS

Club To Meet — Parents Club of St. Joseph's school will meet Monday evening at 8 o'clock at the schoolhouse.

Meet Tuesday — Theta Rho will hold public installation on Jan. 6, at 7:30 o'clock and all girls are asked to wear formal.

To Practice — Pythian Sisters will hold practice for installation of new officers at the K. of P. hall Monday, January 5, at 1 p. m., according to an announcement made today.

To Meet Wednesday — Oregon Chapter, G.E.S., at Canyonville will meet Wednesday at 8:15 P.M. at the hall, according to Florence Hill, worthy matron.

Visiting Here — Sam Miller former resident of this city, is visiting friends in Roseburg for several days. He is a student at Stanford University and resides at Red Bluff, Calif.

Stop Here — Mr. and Mrs. William Price of Tacoma, Wash., spent New Year's day in Roseburg with Clara Berg, 205 Kohlhagen Apts. They were en route to California for a month's vacation.

Leaves Today — Bill Anderson planned to leave today for Ocean-side, Calif., where he is stationed with the U. S. Marines. He has been visiting his parents in Ocean-blower for the past two weeks.

To Enter Exhibit — All Camp Fire and Bluebird guardians are requested to leave several pieces of handcraft work from their group with Mrs. Perry Thiele, 1010 West 1st street, by Tuesday afternoon for the Arts and Crafts exhibit to be held at the Armory Wednesday. The exhibit is under the sponsorship of the Roseburg Woman's Club.

Three Montesano Jail Breakers Are Sought

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Falls, Ore., and was wanted in Oregon City in connection with a burglary there.

Jailer Overpowered
The escape was engineered by threatening a jailer with a butcher knife at his chest when he transferred a prisoner from one cell block to another.

Stafford said the others compelled him to tie and gag the jailer but "I didn't tie him very tight. Then we searched the jail office for guns but didn't find any."

He said he separated from the

other three near the jail while they hunted for a car to steal. He said he hitch-hiked to Seattle.

He said the others planned to head for the East coast from Shelton.

Stafford said the break had been planned for a week, and that the butcher knife was passed into the cell block by a "trustie."

Sheriff Kilgore had expressed that belief yesterday.

Greek Guerrilla Losses At Konitsa Exceed 2,000

ATHENS, Jan. 3 — (P) — The Greek war ministry said today guerrilla forces suffered more than 2,000 casualties during their siege of the government garrison at Konitsa, as opposed to 349 for national forces.

A reliable source said Queen Frederika went to the Konitsa area today, where press dispatches said sporadic firing by guerrillas continued in the heights around the city, which the rebels wanted as the capital for a Greek Communist state.

Escaped Oregon Convicts Captured in Other States

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 2 — (P) — Two state prison convicts who escaped from the prison farm last September 23 have been caught in Los Angeles and Arizona, prison Warden George Alexander was advised Friday.

Eugene Hammond, who entered the prison Jan. 16, 1945, to serve five years for larceny, was captured in Los Angeles.

Leroy E. Thomas, who entered prison from Multnomah county Aug. 29, 1945, also to serve five years for larceny, was caught in a stolen car at Eloy, Ariz., which is north of Phoenix, Alexander said.

Hammond was convicted in Marion county.

FLOOD DISAPPEARING (By The Associated Press)

The danger of the Willamette river flood disappeared today as headwaters continued to fall and the river crest rolled toward the deeper channel of the lower river.

The Willamette crested at Eugene last night more than two feet below flood level, then swept downstream, causing only minor erosion damage.

DRIVER EXAMS DATED

Drivers license examinations will be given in Roseburg next Thursday and Friday, Jan. 8 and 9, at the City Hall between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., according to a schedule released by the secretary of state's office. All original applications should be made before 4 P.M.

ON HONOR ROLL

Mrs. Faith E. Debernardi of Roseburg is one of 19 students listed on the honor roll at the University of Oregon today, who had perfect grades in the fall term. Mrs. Debernardi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Young, is the wife of Richard Debernardi.

Vital Statistics

MARRIAGE LICENSES
WRIGHT-CADY — William Henry Wright, Roseburg, and Virginia Lee Cady, Spokane.

CHARTERS E. HAWER — James Robert Charters and LeVerne Marie Seehawer, both of Oakland, Ore.

HURD-BROWN — Eugene Lawrence Hurd and Velma Darlene Brown, both of Roseburg.

FRANK-HOWARD — Charles William Frank and Gwendolyn Pauline Howard, both of Roseburg.

Enforcement of Umpqua River Closure Demanded

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mon season, and that fishing below the normal 200-yard deadline be permitted at other times of the year.

5. That the game commission endeavor to increase fish plantings, particularly chinook and silver-side salmon, in the Umpqua watershed.

6. That the game commission urge the state police to cause game law enforcement officers to patrol in plain clothes and in motor vehicles not marked by the state emblem.

7. That the game commission provide or require adequate screening of the turbine inlet at the Winchester power plant.

8. That the game commission adopt regulations and demand of the state police rigid enforcement to halt abuse of the "incidental catch" provisions contained in Chapter 374, Oregon Laws 1947.

Control of Corporate Profits Urged by Morse

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country to go back to the drastic wartime controls.

"I think it is perfectly clear that it is the duty of Congress to do whatever can be done by way of legislation in setting up minimum government controls as a gun behind the door to be used only if and when American business forces fail to take the steps they should take in checking inflation," the senator said.

"Such legislation might never be used. In fact I think its passage would have a great preventive value in checking the greed of those selfish interests which are taking advantage of the American consumer today. However, such a government program should be available for use where and when needed throughout our entire economy."

Morse declared "Senator Flanders and others should remember that the American farmer is entitled to protection against the high prices and profits of eastern industrialists who manufacture the goods that the

farmer has to buy." "I respectfully suggest that those senators who passed the so-called anti-inflation bill chiefly characterized by wailing the anti-trust laws of the country can't have their economic cake and eat it too," Morse said.

TRAFFIC FINES LEVIED

Traffic and overload violations netted \$110 in fines in Justice Court Friday. Justice of the Peace Thomas C. Hartfield reported. He said they included: William L. Hanna, unit overload, \$10; axle overload, \$10; Myrtle L. Bryant, overload, \$20; James L. Rutherford, overhanging load, \$10; Orville A. Williams, overhanging load, \$10; William T. Niebuhr, unit overload, \$10; Wilbur B. Meredith, unit overload, \$10; Robert E. Scombs, speeding, \$10; George H. Pettinger, axle overload, \$10; Freeman F. Higginsbotham, speeding, \$10.

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"DOCTOR JIM" starring Stuart Erwin



To be shown here as feature picture in BIG JOHN DEERE DAY PROGRAM

Stuart Erwin, popular Hollywood star, leads the cast in "Doctor Jim," feature picture to be shown at the Roseburg Armory on January 9, 1948. This movie headlines the John Deere day entertainment and educational program for farmers and their families which is being sponsored by Interstate Tractor and Equipment Co.

In the supporting cast are such other well-known artists as Barbara Woodell, Hobart Cavanaugh, William Wright and Netta Packer.

In addition to "Doctor Jim," several other new, all-

talking pictures will be shown. They include "Keep Your Eye on the Soil"—an educational picture that sounds a warning on one in agriculture can afford to ignore — soil maintenance... "Doubting Thomas"—an interesting story that will give you some new slants on new John Deere Models "A" and "B" Tractors... "Short Cuts in Forage Harvest"—which demonstrates the way to shorter, easier,

and more profitable harvesting of hay and forage crops... "Save More Corn at Lower Cost," and "What's New for '48."

Byrle H. Hunter, manager, is extending a cordial invitation to all farm readers of this newspaper—and their neighbors—to be his guests on John Deere Day, January 9, 1948, at the Roseburg Armory.