

Speech by Labor Leader Regarded As Model for Industrial Peace

By JAMES THRASHER

We hope that a lot of people on both sides of the labor-management fence took note of the speech that AFL Vice President Matthew Woll made before the annual Congress of American Industry in New York.

"A true and reliable safeguard of free enterprise as well as the solution of our labor difficulties," said Mr. Woll, "is to make clear to all that it is the manifest duty of all free men to advance the common good by voluntary agreement and not by compulsion of law."

"If Americans fail to solve labor-management problems by co-operation and have to resort to compulsion, we will confess the failure of our system and give color to the claims of the Communists."

"Had management and labor in years past been fully aware of the importance of reaching collective understandings in safeguarding their rights and liberties, there would have been fewer attempts made through irritating, restrictive and compulsory forms of legislation affecting the rights of both."

Past Experience Bitter
Amen. Those are true and important words. And the setting, the speaker and the audience gave them added significance. Here was an executive of organized labor speaking to executives of industry about the past sins of both groups and about their consequences. His words were a model for the friendliness and moderation that both groups must practice if American industry is to grow and prosper in a free atmosphere.

Certainly the members of the National Association of Manufacturers, who made up Mr. Woll's audience, know that voluntary agreement is better than compulsion. They know the history of stubbornness, bitterness, crookedness and suppression on both sides that has brought government more and more into the labor-management picture. And most of them, we trust, are willing to admit that all the sin was not on the other side.

But it is one thing for management and labor to agree pleasantly at a convention meeting, and quite another to continue that agreement on ways and means across the table in contract negotiations or in their daily working relations.

Guide for Congress
And there is another problem. Nobody knows what sort of new rules the government will lay down for labor and management. For the voting strength of union labor and the financial strength of industrial executives are both strong political influences. No matter how much both sides may want to keep government out of collective bargaining, they cannot keep themselves out of the political process of choosing our government and its lawmakers.

Union labor has the advantage over management in politics today. Its members take valid credit for their part in electing a new Congress which almost certainly will be more favorable to their cause than was the last. It remains to be seen how strongly labor will press that advantage.

In this connection, Mr. Woll's speech contained some statements that should encourage all concerned. The American Federation of Labor, he said, does not intend to use labor's advantage to force restrictive laws on management. And it should be noted that he referred to "revision" and not "repeal" of the

Taft-Hartley Act, and never even mentioned the Wagner Act. The future of labor-management peace and progress will look brighter if those views prevail in the new regulations that Congress probably will draft.

Red Spying Still Goes On in U. S., Probers Declare

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Congressional spy hunters today promised new and up-to-the-minute sensations, now that the celebrated Hiss-Chambers case shifts from Capitol Hill to a Federal court room.

Yesterday's Federal Grand Jury indictment of Alger Hiss, former high state department official, on two counts of lying under oath, satisfied the House Un-American Activities Committee that it has nailed down evidence of a pre-war Soviet espionage ring.

Now the Committee intends to prove, members insist, that Red spying still is going on in the government.

They claim that a man still working for the Army as a civilian stole secrets of the famous Norden bomb sight and passed them along to Russia in 1938. But even as the committee switched its main efforts away from the Hiss-Chambers case, it turned loose 26 more documents it said were among those Chambers claimed he got from Hiss. These covered such then top secrets information as a possible trade treaty with Germany, Japanese troop movements, efforts of some top Nazis to persuade Hitler not to move prematurely against Czechoslovakia and Japanese efforts to raise money in the United States.

Alien Influence Eyed
Only two of the documents were reproduced from the microfilm Chambers fished out of a pumpkin on his Maryland farm two weeks ago. The rest were among papers Chambers turned