

Shout and You'll Draw Shouts, Test In Research Shows

GAMBIER, O., Jan. 18.—(P)—Shout at people and they'll holler right back at you. Speak softly, and they'll give you a soft answer.

That sounds like common knowledge dating back to the stone age. Anyway, scientific researchers have found it to be true.

The Kenyon College speech research unit reported its tests showed that folks just cannot help shouting when they are shouted at.

The researchers asked a group of Kenyon students a series of simple questions at varying degrees of loudness. Sure enough, the answers came back soft or loud, in keeping with the questioner's voice.

Even when the students were told to reply in a uniform tone, they just couldn't help pitching their voices in the same key as the questioner's.

The college research unit carried on the tests under a contract with the Office of Naval Research.

Dr. John Black, Professor of speech at Kenyon, is directing the research here. It is considered of value in training naval personnel to communicate efficiently in airplanes and on shipboard.

Dr. Black began his voice communications research for the Navy during the war. His findings include:

- (1) Around 120 words a minute is the most efficient rate of speaking to be understood.
- (2) A loud intensity, just short of shouting, is most effective when speaking over communications equipment in competition with noise, in a boiler factory, for instance.
- (3) Loud shouting cuts down the listener's understanding.
- (4) Under conditions of intense noise, men from the Middle West can be understood better than Southerners or Easterners.
- (5) The intelligibility of a word increases with the number of

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OUT OUR WAY



Taft-Hartley Law Merely One Of Congress' Many Labor Problems

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—Revision of the Taft-Hartley Law is just one of the labor legislation items coming before the new Congress. Many of the proposals are holdovers from the last Congress or even earlier. Others are bills to change existing laws, brought up by changed conditions in the labor situation.

Revision of Wage-Hour Law and portal-to-portal pay ban are in this class. President Truman and the Democratic party platform of 1948 both called for increasing minimum wage to 75 cents an hour or better, and for extending coverage. New Senate Labor Committee Chairman Elbert D. Thomas of Utah had a bill in to make these changes next year, but it got no place. There is some labor lobby agitation to make the minimum \$1 an hour, but that hasn't much chance. An escalator clause, calling for more later, is a possibility.

Wage-Hour Law coverage may be extended by taking in all workers employed in industries "affecting" interstate commerce. The law now covers only workers in

syllables. That is, polysyllable ("ten dollar") words can be better understood than four letter words—over communications equipment.

interstate commerce and workers employed in the production of goods going into interstate commerce. Department of Labor is also on record in favor of extending child labor protection in this same manner.

Extension Service Asked

Demand for revision of the 1947 law banning payment of portal-to-portal claims unless they are due by custom or contract arises out of disputes about payment of overtime on overtime. The recent New York longshoremen's strike was settled partially on an understanding that the law would be clarified on this point.

A Labor-Extension Service bill is high on the list of Department of Labor recommendations. Senators Wayne Morse of Oregon and Thomas of Utah proposed this legislation last year. It was favorably reported by the Senate Labor Committee under Senator Taft of Ohio, but never brought to a vote.

Last year's proposal was to set up a federal grants-in-aid program to states that would establish a Labor Extension Board and plans similar to the extension work for farmers now carried on by Department of Agriculture.

For Labor Extension Service, the states would have been required to put up at least 25 per cent of the funds allotted to them by the Secretary of Labor. This money would be used to give labor education courses in co-operating colleges and universities.

An Industrial Safety Act, proposed last year by Senators Morse of Oregon and Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina, will be up again.

Parity for Women

A woman's Equal Pay bill and a Women's Equal Status bill are hardy perennials before each new Congress. Senators Morse of Oregon and Claude Pepper of Florida backed the Equal Pay bill last year. In general, its purpose is to require comparable pay for comparable work performance, by both men and women on goods affecting or entering into interstate commerce.

The Women's Equal Status bill, part of broader equal rights legislation that the women's organizations have been arguing about for years, would give women workers the same privileges and responsibilities now imposed on or enjoyed by men.

A bill to regulate private employment agencies, first proposed by Congressman John Tolan of

California in 1940, is still being sought.

Reorganization of Department of Labor to give it back some of the responsibilities gradually shifted to other agencies, will come up in connection with recommendations from ex-President Herbert Hoover's Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of Government.

The Hoover Commission originally appointed no "task force" to consider Labor Department reorganization separately. Dr. George W. Taylor was called in somewhat belatedly to advise. He has recommended no reshuffling until the new Democratic administration's labor policy is established.

U. of Washington Professor Admits He's Communist

SEATTLE, Jan. 19.—(P)—University of Washington Professor Herbert J. Phillips declared in a letter to the University Daily Monday that he has been a member of the Communist party for 13 years.

"There is nothing about commitment to such a program," the assistant professor of philosophy wrote, "that makes a person unfit to teach American youth in any field in which he is qualified."

He said the American Communist party does not advocate the doctrine of force and violence as a means of social change, and the party's constitution forbids overthrow of the government by force.

Party members, Phillips asserted, are not required to follow a party line and are not "agents of a foreign power," but all believe in a certain philosophy which extends to the Communist party of the Soviet Union.

Phillips is one of six university faculty members who were tried before a faculty tenure committee after appearing before the state legislature un-American activities committee here last summer.

The findings of the tenure committee were submitted to the university's board of regents, which is expected to announce a decision Saturday.

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Get-Rich-Quick Racket Nailed By Los Angeles Law

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19.—(P)—Law officers made valiant efforts today to protect Los Angeles area residents from themselves amid a mushrooming new get-rich-quick fad.

Two persons were arrested and fined \$100 each for violating the city chain letter ordinance in the new "Pyramid Friendship Clubs" which have attracted thousands of members dreaming of payoffs of \$2,000 to \$4,000.

Seventeen persons were arrested Monday night in nearby Long Beach, including Mr. and Mrs. William R. Strand, at whose home detectives said a club meeting was in progress around the kitchen table.

Inspector E. O. Carroll and seven officers confiscated a bowl containing \$11 in \$1 bills and several Pyramid Club charts.

Unanimously the authorities called the scheme illegal, in violation of city ordinance and state lottery laws and of federal mail fraud statutes, if the mails are used.

Nevertheless, starchy-eyed club members deluged enforcement officers and newspapers with protests that the scheme isn't unlawful, just fun, and "nobody gets hurt" because it costs only 50 cents or a dollar to let yourself in for it. Club fans jammed South Gate City Council chambers near here, demanding repeal of that city's anti-lottery ordinance.

Those fined were Mrs. Nellie Louquet, 40, housewife, and Riley J. Bouette, 30, service station operator.

Donald Redwine, deputy city attorney, said the scheme works this way:

A Pyramid Club applicant pays an entrance fee of 50 cents, \$1 or \$2. He gets two other applicants. Names in batches of 15 are arranged chronologically and in pyramid form, five names to the base. When more names are added the top one goes to a master list of nine above the pyramid. Members meet weekly at someone's house. The pyramid grows higher, the top man gets paid off, provided no one has petered out on the deal. Everybody moves up a notch and this goes on and on.

IRON PENNIES IN RAILS

PUEBLO, Colo.—(P)—Those confusing, gray-colored pennies have an after-life when you finish with them.

After being retired to the Denver mint, the zinc-coated one cent pieces are mashed to make them unusable, and then sent here for use in steel making.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation melts them with other scrap metal and they are used in steel rails, structural steel, fence wire, nails and spikes.

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'Happy Birthday to Me'



Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, Texas Democrat, raises his voice in song at his own 67th birthday party, given in the Washington home of Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, another Texan. The youngsters include his grandniece and nephew and the children of associates. It's all a big joke to Jane Bartley, 7, his grandniece, in the rear, left.

Safety, Health To Be Topics at Meet Of 4-H Leaders

Safety and health will be the features at the Jan. 19 meeting of the Douglas County 4-H Leaders Association at the Grange Hall in Sutherlin. At this monthly meeting Miss Fulton, Douglas County health nurse, will speak on desirable health habits to teach youngsters and give suggestions on how these might be taught. To illustrate this portion of the meeting a movie entitled "Microbes & Men" will be shown.

On the completion of the health part of the meeting, safety in the 4-H program will be discussed. To illustrate this part, a short film, entitled "Safety in the Home," will be shown. Following this, the subject, 4-H posters, will be taken up. Rules to follow and hints on

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construction will be included in the discussion of posters.

These monthly meetings of the 4-H Leaders Association are open to the public and anyone interested in the particular subject for the night or interested in 4-H Club work is invited to attend.

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