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## Repeal Of Taft-Hartley Law, Sought By Truman, Unlikely To Gain Congress Approval

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Repeal of the Taft-Hartley act still is President Truman's No. 1 objective in the labor field. But Democratic leaders in congress say they look for the law to stay on the books through 1950.

Mr. Truman's lieutenants at the capitol have indicated clearly they plan to advise the president it probably would be futile to try again for repeal—or even drastic revision of the law—at the new session opening Jan. 3.

"So far as I can see, we just don't have the votes," one of the party chiefs told a reporter.

Thus repeal appears almost certain to be one of the stormy issues of next year's congressional election campaigns, just as it was in the presidential and other contests in 1948.

Repeal advocates have contended all along that Mr. Truman's election and the overturn last year of Republican control of Congress constituted a mandate from the people for the scuttling of the Taft-Hartley measure. They are working for a big enough margin in the Senate and house in 1951 to achieve it.

The administration lost its fight for repeal at the last session because a big bloc of Southern Democrats lined up with the Republican opposition, while only a few Republicans voted with the Truman Democrats.

Taft Blames Propaganda  
The GOP foes of repeal, led by Senator Taft of Ohio, have argued that the majority of the

voters want the essentials of the Taft-Hartley law kept.

Taft himself, whose campaign for re-election next year already is in high gear, says he has found that many rank-and-file Ohio workers are against erasing the present labor law. He says many of those who do want it repealed "have a prejudice against it, growing out of labor newspaper propaganda."

The dim prospects for repeal this year don't mean Mr. Truman will not ask for it in the state of the union message he is preparing for Congress. Both sides expect a renewed demand, and there may even be a stir toward carrying it out—one to which the Democrats can point in the Congressional campaigns.

But at this time no serious effort is shaping up in the house, which would have to make the next move.

Compromise Blocked  
The move is there because the Senate at the last session passed a labor bill and sent it to the house. The measure is a long way from being what Mr. Truman wants. It retains all the basic features of the Taft-Hartley law, including the labor-hated injunction against national emergency strikes.

The Senate bill, drafted mainly by Taft, went to the House after that branch had rejected the administration's Taft-Hartley repealer and came within a few votes of passing another bill which would change the Taft-Hartley law only slightly.

House Democratic leaders finally succeeded in getting that latter bill sent back to the labor committee. There it has been ever since. All efforts to get an agreement on a compromise have deadlocked so far.

"I hope there won't be any compromise," said Senator Murray (D-Mont), a leader of the repeal forces.

We promised to get rid of the law. If we can't do it with the present line-up in Congress, then the thing to do is to put it up to the people at next year's elections.

Murray and some of those on his side believe their position has been strengthened by the fact Mr. Truman did not use the Taft-Hartley injunction provision in the recent steel and coal strikes. They feel they can point to at least the steel settlement as evidence that the injunction is not needed in critical strikes.

On the other hand, some Taft-Hartley backers argue that the president should have sought a court order in both the coal and steel disputes.

**STRIKE POSTPONED**  
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 27. — (AP) — Union officials have agreed to postpone a threatened strike of Southwestern Bell Telephone company employes for ten days.

They accepted Gov. Forrest Smith's plan to try for a settlement next Thursday at a meeting of the governors from the affected states.

Municipally-owned stores provide most of the local liquor revenue in Minnesota.



WHY MOTHERS GET GRAY  
By J. R. Williams

## Judge Says Radio Station Can Ban Some Broadcasts

BOSTON — (AP) — Can a radio station break a contract for a broadcast?

A federal judge has ruled a station has that right if it believes a proposed program does not best serve the public interest.

The finding was made by Judge Francis J. W. Ford in dismissing a civil suit brought by the Massachusetts Universalist convention against radio station WLAW of Lawrence.

The suit alleged breach of contract in the station's refusal to broadcast a sermon titled "Is Jesus Risen?" last Easter Sunday. It asked damages and an order forcing the station to broadcast the sermon next Easter.

**Called Lack of Freedom**  
The convention charged in the suit that constitutional freedom of religious expression had been violated.

Counsel for the station argued the sermon raised "the question of the divinity of Christ and the theory of the resurrection." He asked dismissal of the suit on the grounds "broadcast of this sermon on that particular day would, by reason of the religious views expressed, be shocking to general public sensibility."

Furthermore, he said, broadcasting of such a sermon on Easter Sunday "would be in violation of the station's duty under the federal communications act to operate in the public interest."

**Does Not Accept Fact**  
Judge Ford noted in his decision that the proposed broadcast "expressed what is presumably the Universalist doctrine which does not accept the resurrection of Christ as a physical and historical fact."

Instead, he said, "it gives to the story of the resurrection a purely metaphorical or spiritual significance."

Judge Ford said in answering the convention's complaint the station had violated constitutional freedom of speech and religion.

"This amendment (the first) limits only the action of Congress or of agencies of the federal government and not private corporations such as the defendant here."

He added the federal communications act "does not expressly confer on anyone any right to

broadcast any material at any time," and said: "The licensee is obliged to reserve to himself the final decision as to what programs will best serve the public interest."

**Tavern, Apartments At Cathlamet Fire's Prey**

CATHLAMET, Wash., Dec. 27. — (AP) — A tavern and some apartments were destroyed early Friday by a fire that for a time threatened to spread to an entire block.

The loss was estimated at between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

An oil furnace in the tavern basement exploded, engulfing the building in flames. Lines of the

telephone company office, adjoining the tavern, were put out of commission.

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## University Hit For Appointing An Alleged Red

SEATTLE, Dec. 27. — (AP) — Criticism was voiced by a member of the University of Washington board of regents and a state legislator here over appointment of a New York writer to a visiting lectureship at the university next quarter.

Target of their criticism is Malcolm Cowley, described as a poet and writer and former associate editor of the New Republic.

Cowley's record of having been cited by the congressional Un-American Activities committee for having served numerous "Communist-front organizations" and the quality of his poetry were both criticized by the objectors.

George Stuntz, the regent, said he had opposed Cowley's appointment to the Walker-Ames fellowship in two meetings of the board of regents "but faculty members talked me down."

The legislator was Rep. William D. Shannon (R-Seattle) who wrote Dr. Raymond B. Allen, president of the university, that he "was at loss to understand the selection of a man to address the students who has the background

of Mr. Cowley." He has satisfied himself, Dr. Allen said, that the lecturer is no longer a sympathizer with Communism and that "errors he may have committed 10 or 15 years ago should not stand in his way if he has something constructive to offer in an unrelated field of special competence."

The university made public a letter from Cowley offering to withdraw if his appointment were to prove embarrassing. The university declined the offer.

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