

Taft-Hartley Act--Wayne Morse vs. Robert Taft

By Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio

By Senator Morse, Republican, Oregon

The Taft-Hartley law is meeting the test of time and it has been upheld repeatedly in the courts. Public approval of this law is now at its highest point, according to impartial public opinion surveys.

The success of those senators and congressmen who supported the law in the recent election again demonstrated its acceptance by the American people.

Basically, the law undertakes to provide equality between labor and management (1) by preventing unfair labor practices by labor unions while retaining the same prohibitions against unfair labor practices by management which were set up by the Wagner Act, and (2) by subjecting labor unions to the same obligation to perform their contracts and be otherwise liable for their acts, to which individuals and corporations are subject.

The result is to make the National Labor Relations Board a governmental judicial body instead of an agency of the labor unions. The Taft-Hartley law outlaws the closed shop, closed union which made individual workers and young persons seeking employment completely subservient to the whims and caprices of union leaders in order to be able to pursue their right to earn a living.

It protects the American wage earner from organized union violence on the picket line and elsewhere.

It requires both unions and employers to bargain collectively in good faith and give reasonable notice to the other of a desire to change the terms of a contract.

It requires unions to make an annual financial report to their members. It does not otherwise interfere with the internal affairs of unions.

The Taft-Hartley law is still vilified by the bosses of the labor unions, but their campaign against it has been one of distortion, half truths, and fanciful speculations. I have talked to many labor audiences, and I have yet to find anyone who can point to a specific case in which the law has resulted in any unfair treatment of a labor union. Under it, the unions have prospered. They have more members than ever before. They have obtained better wages, working conditions, pensions, and allowances than employees have ever enjoyed before in the history of the world.



SENATOR TAFT



SENATOR MORSE

One of the basic principles upon which our democracy is built is that of voluntary cooperation. Good labor relations are simply that—voluntary cooperation between management and labor for their mutual benefit and for the public good.

A sound labor policy must meet certain tests. It should accept organized labor as a necessary and desirable group in a democratic free enterprise system. It should encourage employers to engage in collective bargaining when a majority of the employees choose a union as their representative. It should encourage employers and unions to work out solutions to their mutual problems. It should deal with real problems and abuses by management or labor, and provide fair and workable remedies to protect public or important individual interests. Finally, any Federal law dealing with labor relations should be simple, clear and easily enforceable.

Measured by these tests, and viewed in the light of the three years of experience, the Taft-Hartley Act must be condemned as undemocratic, coercive, punitive and unnecessarily complex. In short, it is an act of legislative hypocrisy.

On the one hand, and in most pious phrases, it purports to protect and provide the means for enforcing the rights of self-organization and collective bargaining. However, by others of its terms, by the interpolation of trick phrases, by the establishment of devious and endless procedures, and by a monstrous separation of powers which sets one part of the administrative agency against the other, the Taft-Hartley Act effectively frustrates and defeats these rights.

The sooner Congress repeals the Taft-Hartley Act and replaces it with a law which meets the minimum standards set out above, the better. We must return to a policy which promotes industrial self-government through labor-management cooperation and self-discipline, because in the long run that is the policy most consistent with our system of free enterprise.

Oregon Daily EMERALD

The OREGON DAILY EMERALD published Monday through Friday during the college year except Oct. 30; Dec. 5 through Jan. 3; Mar. 6 through 28; May 7; Nov. 22 through 27; and after May 24, with issues on Nov. 4 and May 12, by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. Entered as second class matter at the postoffice, Eugene, Oregon. Subscription rates: \$5 per school year; \$2 per term.

ANITA HOLMES, Editor

DON THOMPSON, Business Manager

Guest Editors from Washington

Peel off Korea and charges of aggression and wage-price freezes. Underneath you'll find a nation looking at issues such as CVA and socialized medicine and the Taft-Hartley law.

Dominant in the America without war is this Taft-Hartley law which was the first major revision in New Deal labor policies of the 1930's. Just four years ago this month a new Congress, ruled by Republicans, battled over the bill while labor leaders shuddered.

It was passed over the President's veto on June 23, 1947, and one of its makers, Senator Robert A. Taft was immediately branded by organized labor as the "man to beat in '50."

Some of his Republican colleagues from the Senate's right side of the aisle strongly upheld this labor bill. And some, one Wayne L. Morse in particular, strongly opposed it.

Today the law is moving into its fourth year. The senator from Ohio whose name it bears is talking more about foreign policy and less about labor. And he's looking closely at a signpost marked White House.

Today the law is moving into its fourth year. The senator from Oregon who has continually opposed it is talking more about the drafting of 18-year-olds and less about his own Morse-Ives bill.

And today both of these men grace the Emerald's editorial page as guest editors writing on the Taft-Hartley law, a dominant issue in the America underneath.

THE DAILY 'E'...

goes to Alice Maier, Helen Jackson, and Stephanie Scott, who last night received the Mortar Board plaque for having the highest grades among women during their freshman year.

THE OREGON LEMON...

to the Oregon State College journalist who accused the Ducks of poor sportsmanship following the basketball series of last weekend. Is it sportsmanship or the fact that the Beavers are in the ND cellar that perturbs the Aggie critic so much?



Sky's The Limit

'Don't Give Damnit's' Poisons Our System

By Sam Fidman

A favored device by which historians examine the true thinking of men is personal correspondence, usually written or received by a dignitary of state. There are letters of the Roman emperors, and of Abraham Lincoln, each depicting the flavor of life in their times.

In a living democracy the letters and ideas of the layman, the "common man", are truly reflective.

In the torturous hours in which we live, letter writers seem to have gone philosophical, and more aware of and more appreciative of life now that its normalcy cannot be taken for granted.

One friend in Los Angeles writes of having developed a painful case of "don't give a damnitis."

"Honestly," he writes, "is there any other way we can feel?"

Well, honestly, there is. To "just accept" a situation is the pivot around which our slump-shouldered fatalists are created.

No matter how disheartening a situation may become, once the citizens of a democracy abandon the will to discuss and think their way to a solution, they are ripe for loss of their freedom. And what's more, they would deserve it.

Some opinions have it that America's youth is facing responsibility squarely.

This cannot be accepted as a whole truth, since there are cases of mass hookey popping up, and there exists an element that has adopted, or rationalized, its way to the adoption of the odiferous "don't give a damn" attitude.

titide.

That makes for a dangerous escape from reality at a time when our nation needs realistic thinking as backbone of realistic action, whether that action be on the individual basis or at the high and mighty national governmental level.

The Second Cup

In keeping with the March of Dimes campaign just concluded, the following offering on charity is submitted:

Charity is the perfection and ornamentation of religion.—Addison.

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything. Samuel Johnson.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts. XX. 35.

Charity shall cover the multitude of sins. I Peter. IV. 8.

It Could Be Oregon



"And now No. 9, Professor Snarf—This question is worth \$18.73"