

UNIONS OPENLY DEFY COURTS IN INJUNCTION CASES

Washington, Feb. 24.—Organized labor defied the industrial court system, advocated a flat refusal on the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of injunctions and denounced the so-called open shop movement in a declaration and appeal to the American people issued Wednesday.

The 21-page document was issued by "the officers and other representatives of the national and international trade unions of America assembled in the executive council chamber of the American Federation of Labor."

BETWEEN TWO FIRES
"American labor," says the statement, "today stands between two converging destructive forces, assailed and attacked by the conscienceless autocrats of industry and the followers of European radical fanaticism. If either of these wins, the doors of democratic freedom and opportunity can never be re-opened in our time."

Judge-made law is condemned by the labor leaders, who claim that the unrestrained use of the injunction menaces the stability of America's economic structure.

"For six years," they assert, "the Clayton act checked the abuse of the writ of injunction. A majority of the justices of the supreme court have swept away this strong barrier against a feudal legal concept and labor finds itself again at the mercy of an unlimited use of judge-made law."

HELD UNCONSTITUTIONAL
"The injunction as it is now used and abused in labor disputes is without sanction either in the constitution or in the fundamental law of the land. It is a pure usurpation of power and authority. The only possible and practical remedy in the face of a power so usurped and so completely unjustified lies in a flat refusal on the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of injunctions which seek to prohibit the doing of acts which the workers have a lawful and guaranteed right to do, or which seek to compel workers to do those things which they have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse to do. This is the only immediate course through which labor can find relief and this course it purposes to pursue. Labor realizes fully the consequences of such a course, but in the defense of

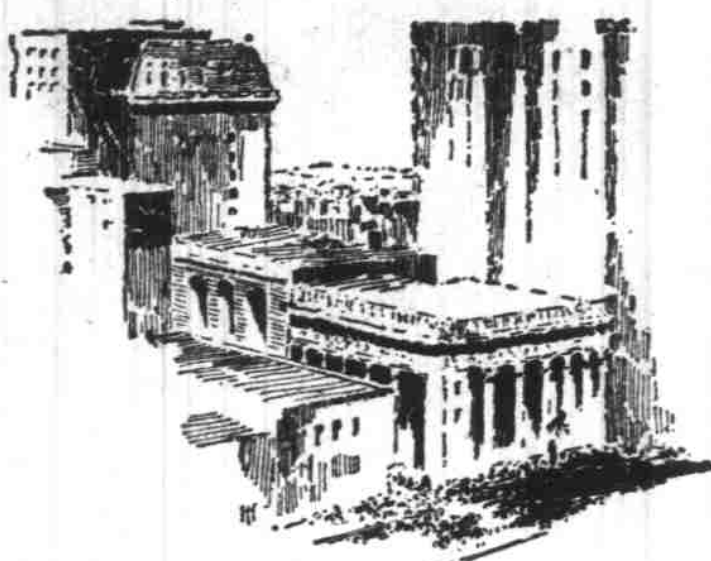
American freedom and of American institutions, it is compelled to adopt this course, be the consequences what they may."

In paying their compliments to the open shop movement, the labor leaders flay what they call reactionary, industrial autocrats, unscrupulous pirates of finance and employers "who have en-

joyed their might in a campaign which they have been waging vigorously since the signing of the armistice," a campaign for a shop that shall be "closed against union workmen." The labor leaders call this movement an attempt to destroy trade unionism.

What might be termed labor's bill of rights is affixed to the statement calling

for public support and recognition of the right of working people to organize into trade unions; the right to and practice of collective bargaining; to work and to cease to work collectively; to bestow or withhold patronage collectively, and the exercise of collective activities in furtherance of the welfare of labor.



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ACTUAL REPRODUCTION

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