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Ironworkers' Case Far From Iron-Clad

The majority of Americans respect the fact that labor's strength lies in solidarity. But growing numbers also realize that there's a vast difference between standing firm on debatable issues and mulish balking on questionable ones.

It's sincerely to be hoped that by the time these paragraphs are published the Northwest District Council of Ironworkers will have sensed that public reaction is rising against them in their dispute with heavy construction contractors. It's to be hoped that they have, accordingly, acted to seek realistic agreements with the contractors.

Millions upon millions of dollars worth of vital construction projects have been slowed or stopped in this region because the ironworkers have struck for wage increases, pension fund and travel time and transportation allowance increases which far exceed the anti-inflation guidelines the Kennedy administration has suggested for all U.S. labor unions.

Resentment against the ironworkers has spread—even in other unions. Carpenters in Corvallis were this week denied their district council's permission to ignore ironworkers' picket lines. But, in asking that permission, they made these points: (1) the ironworkers are asking too much; (2) it is in the public interest that certain work on schools and other tax-financed projects be completed as soon as possible; and (3) too many others are being thrown out of work by those whose jobs approximate only one per cent of the man hours involved on commercial jobs.

It is important, in judging the ironworkers' action, to note that the union has been insisting upon a region-wide contract to replace individual contracts with smaller contractor groups. Thus, action by the contractors to consider a strike against one of their number a strike against all has been simply tit-for-tat.

It also is important to observe that the ironworkers are asking things which would add 59 cents per hour to employer cost of hiring reinforcing bar workers, 54 cents per hour in all other job classifications, plus 25 cents per hour more

for foremen, plus travel time and transportation allowances which to most workers, would seem unreasonable.

Most ironworkers in this state are Portland residents. Under their union's proposed terms, a crew sent to Klamath Falls would, for example, draw \$57 extra per man for going to and from home each weekend—whether they actually went home or not. According to contractors' estimates, the total effect of the union's demands could, in extreme cases, double the gross cost of hiring ironworkers.

There are some arguments, good ones, to be made in behalf of the ironworkers. But nothing yet made public would justify their go-for-broke demands. Nothing we've seen has indicated that the ironworkers have a reasonable right to expect other unions to back them up indefinitely. The ironworkers may have the contractors over a barrel because the work season on many major projects is ebbing; but, the ironworkers also are putting carpenters, general laborers, heavy equipment operators and many other crafts over the same barrel.

Right here in Lane County, employment at Carmen-Smith Dam has been reduced from around 500 to 275 because eight ironworkers aren't available to do key tasks in the progress of the \$25 million project. If the situation continues, completion of the dam may not be possible this year—and that will end up costing the residents of Eugene, owners of the Eugene Water & Electric Board, hundreds of thousands, quite possibly millions, of dollars. Earth moving crews are going ahead as far as they dare at Carmen-Smith. Soon, however, most of them will also have to be laid off if it appears that the entire job cannot be completed before winter. Beyond a certain point, any earthworks they might construct would have to be protected with reinforced concrete—or be swept away by winter flood torrents.

The Carmen-Smith problem is only one of many the ironworkers have created in the Northwest. And the plain facts are that this region cannot long endure such job-reducing, growth-impeding problems in the numbers being imposed upon it.

Feeling Guilty

Gen. John L. DeWitt died the other day. His name may be no longer familiar to many Americans, but 20 years ago it was a name that everybody on the West Coast recognized. He was the West's No. 1 soldier, commander of the Sixth Army. It was he who signed the order sending citizens of Japanese ancestry to "relocation centers," as we euphemistically called our concentration camps.

Governor of Oregon at that time was Charles A. Sprague, who now, as then, is publisher of the Oregon Statesman. Writing in his column this week, Mr. Sprague notes that we were too alarmed about the harm the Japanese-Americans might do. Their record was excellent. They did no harm, and many later joined the armed forces.

Then the governor writes, "Looking back, it seems clear that the order was wholly unnecessary, and I feel a sense of guilt for not having protested General DeWitt's order."

There is no particular cause to feel guilty, save as we might all feel guilty for having been so swayed by the passions of the time. One has only to try to recapture the spirit of that black year, 1942, to understand how scared, how angry, how unyielding all of us had become. All of us. We wanted somebody to hate.

This was a human reaction. Under the circumstances, still allowing for the spirit of 1942, no other reaction could have been expected. The lesson for Americans is that we, too, under pressures permitted things of which we are not now proud. It's a lesson we ought to remember every time we are tempted to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude toward other people.

Where Are They Now?

The Florence School District is in danger of losing state basic school funds because of the rundown, overcrowded condition of some of its school buildings.

If state financial support is withdrawn, the district's property tax rates will have to be increased markedly. And, yet, the district will not have solved the problem of finding funds to build new facilities.

It would be only justice now, if this problem were turned over to those who incited defeat of a construction bond issue in the Florence district this last spring.

Local Problems

Those who view the "population explosion" in world-wide terms should think again. This is not a world problem so much as it is a series of local problems. Writing in the Christian Century, Richard M. Fagley makes this observation:

Of the 60 million people who will be added to the world population annually in the next few years, 48 million annually will be added to China, India and other impoverished parts of Asia, to Latin America and to Africa. Only 12 million a year will be added to the economically more stable parts of the world such as Japan, Western Europe and North America.

The population growth will come in countries that are trying so hard, in other ways, to lift themselves out of poverty. They are, however, in the position described by the queen in "Through the Lookingglass." They find, "It takes all the running you can keep in the same place."

'Will Somebody Say a Prayer for Me?'



Ralph McGill

Why Do Churches Flee?

New York Notes: Seventy-five per cent of all Americans now live in urban regions and the more pressing problems thereby created are as much a part of our daily life as bread. There are, however, many issues created which are non-theological critical because they go largely unrecognized—or as is sometimes the case—unadmitted.



McGill

One of these is religion. What happens to the spiritual life of urban people—many of whom

have come from rural families or the close-knit personal life of a small community? That many city churches of the older, more well-established divisions of the Christian faith have moved to the suburbs—or sold downtown church property for commercial use—is a fact familiar to us all.

Areas of Need

Why do churches close their doors or flee to the suburbs? Certainly there are more people to be served than ever before. The problems of human life, with which Christianity primarily is interested, are many times multiplied.

Christianity is the more embarrassed because this multipli-

cation of the most desperate need occurs in the poorest areas of urban centers. Is the problem of persons caught by narcotic addiction, especially young persons, no concern of a church in neighborhoods where such tragic cases are found? What about alcoholics, and those who do feel lost and alone? What are the duties, if any, of churches in areas where thousands of persons live in overcrowded rooms and apartments and must seek recreation and interest on the streets, in bars, coffee houses, et cetera?

The Rev. Howard R. Moody, pastor of Judson Memorial Church in New York, at Thompson Street and Washington Square South in the Village, has a theory which is strongly supported by physical facts. Reverend Moody, out of long experience, says that what amounts to a policy of "anti-urban bias" is causing the Protestant church to lose its hold in the cities of the United States.

It is his strongly-held belief that only a person-to-person type of religion that recognizes the personal and spiritual problems of the "displaced urbanite" will enable him to "put down new roots in the asphalt jungles."

Great Friendlessness

It is not possible to dispute his assertion that city dwellers live in the midst of great impersonal friendlessness. Many become members of "the lonely crowd." It is not easy to live alone or in the midst of impersonal masses. Not all people have the inner resources to face, and conquer, such a situation. Many who set out to escape from loneliness succumb to alcohol or drugs. There is not an urban pastor today who does not carry a dismaying load of counseling with persons who have become emotionally or mentally unstable and who are about to be, or are, overwhelmed by a sea of troubles, real or imagined.

Reverend Moody believes that one reason for the erosion of the Protestant church in urban communities is what he sees as the inflexibility of many individual churches as reflected in the lay leadership and that of the clergy. He notes that as neighborhoods change and cultures are thereby altered, sometimes radically, many churches sadly note that "our kind of people" have all left the neighborhood and hence the churches move or disband. The empty church—with thousands of people living all about it—is, he thinks, a symbol of Protestant decay in the nation's cities. His ministry places special emphasis on young people. To him the diversity of people and the complex richness of cultures are what make cities desirable places to live.

Excellent Phrase

In a recent sermon he said: "God speaks to us and gives us the marvelous gift of people—millions of them who congregate here—the amazing richness and diversity of people, the contrast of so many shades of skin, the strangeness and familiarity of all kinds of languages."

"The marvelous gift of people is an excellent phrase. The population increases. The need is for more housing, more highways, more public health, more doctors, more schools, more teachers, more jobs. Is there no challenge to religion?"

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Eric Severeid

Medical Schools Too Technological

One of the frustrations of the general columnist is that the shortbread he casts upon the waters must often be in the form of fragments—though he tries to avoid stale crusts. One of his rewards is that his fragments are often returned as a whole loaf, well-risen, from persons who rank as chefs and not short order cooks in the matter concerned.



Severeid

The other week, in remarking upon the Augustan manner with which the AMA so frequently pronounces judgment upon political and historical matters, I suggested that the concentrated necessities of technical education had deprived the generality of American doctors of the liberal education out of which can grow a more vital view of social history.

The crested letterheads from physicians and surgeons piled up rapidly. Some gave off a heat (but no light) that seemed to me to confirm what I had tried to say. Some, in protest, clearly reflected minds schooled in much more than medicine. Others, especially those from professors and deans of medicine, said in essence that the column was justified.

Remarkable Interview

In the sheaf of correspondence was a copy of the remarkable interview with Dr. Herbert Ratner of the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University which has been published in pamphlet form by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara. From this I learn that the pre-medical curriculum for many future doctors is being shortened even more in order "to make the M.D. degree competitive in time with the Ph.D. degree." But, says Dr. Ratner, "we are streamlining the educational process in the wrong direction by stressing the technological at the expense of the humanities."

As I read his analysis, Dr. Ratner is not so much concerned with the physician's grasp of philosophy or history as objective studies or with the political and economic effect of proposed health-cost legislation as he is with the physician's understanding and treatment of his patient as a complete human entity and with the effect on the quality of treatment which the legislation may have. In any case, his whole argument is an eloquent plea against the rapid drift away from humanitarian individualism, in the highest sense of that phrase, within the practice of medicine.

Among the causes of this drift he seems to assign a greater role to the medical schools than he does to government pressure. Premedical curricula aside, he argues that the medical courses themselves become ever more narrowed and specialized. "Most medical schools are confused about their basic purpose. We do not know any longer whether our goal is to turn out physicians or research men... We should appeal to students as humanitarians, not as technologists; as makers of health in the suffering rather than pursuers of truth in the laboratory, which calls for a different bent of mind."

Too Much Money

And what causes this drift within the schools? It is primarily money, for Parkinson's Law appears to operate in this as in most other realms: "...The tremendous amount of research money available to the medical schools from government, foundation and the pharmaceutical sources. It is common knowledge that we have more research money available than we have worthy research ideas, and this available money seduces. Research scientists, rather than good teachers and practitioners, have become the sought-after commodity for medical schools."

It is in the bones of Americans to believe that all problems can be solved if only enough money is spent, enough heads put together and enough action taken. Both this and foreign lands have much benefited by this central belief, but there is a limit to the production of qualities by amassing quantities. The point of diminishing returns per dollar, per head and per action must come. Apparently it has come in this field, as I happen to believe it has come in much of the field of our foreign economic aid, for one example. (Let the Peace Corps think hard before expanding to an Army or an Army Group.)

Action Psychology

The action psychology lies at the beginnings of American medical practice. So, as Dr. Ratner reminds us, we happily pay the surgeon a high fee for an operation—he has acted—and grudgingly pay a small fee to the physician who rightly advises that we let nature cure an ailment. He has not acted. Dr. Ratner asserts flatly that America is the best place in the

world in which to have a serious illness and one of the worst in which to have a non-serious illness.

He reminds us of what Oliver Wendell Holmes had to say of the profession a century ago: "How could a people... which has contrived the Bowie-knife and the revolver, which has chewed the juice out of all the superlatives in the language in Fourth of July orations... which insists in sending out yachts and horses and boys to out-sail, out-run and checkmate all the rest of creation; how could such a people be content with any but 'heroic' practice?" (Distributed 1962 by The Hall Syndicate, Inc.) (All Rights Reserved)

Congressional Quiz

'Lobbying' Was Born In Lobby

By Congressional Quarterly

Attempts to influence the shape and direction of legislation are called "lobbying." In 1946, Congress passed the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act which, for the first time, required all groups or persons attempting to influence legislation to register with Congress and report how much they spent on lobbying activities. This quiz tests your knowledge of lobbying. Try for four correct answers.

1. Q—What is the origin of the term "lobbyist?"
A—The term first referred to persons who frequented the lobbies or corridors of legislative chambers in order to speak to and try to influence the lawmakers.

2. Q—Annual reported spending for all lobbying groups during recent years has averaged about (a) \$4 million; (b) \$500,000; (c) \$75 million.
A—(a). Authorities on the subject have estimated that the actual amount spent both directly and indirectly on lobbying is far greater.

3. Q—True or false: The 1946 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act did not designate anyone to enforce and administer the act?
A—True. The act leaves it up to each individual lobbyist or lobbying organization to decide what it will or will not report as lobby expenditures. A 1954 Supreme Court decision, however, limited the law's applicability to direct communication with members of Congress.

4. Q—As of April 1962, the total number of individuals and organizations registering as lobbyists in the 16-year history of the Federal Lobbying Act amounted to (a) 596; (b) 2,577; (c) 4,452?
A—(c). This total includes 3,691 individuals, 222 law or public relations firms and 539 other organizations.

5. Q—True or false: Congress has the right to prohibit all lobbying if it should so desire?
A—False. The U.S. Constitution specifically guarantees the right of every citizen "to petition the government for a redress of grievances" in the First Amendment. Any act of Congress limiting this right would probably be unconstitutional.

6. Q—Which of the following organizations reported spending the most on lobbying during 1961: (a) AFL-CIO; (b) American Medical Assn.; (c) National Assn. of Manufacturers?
A—(b). The AMA reported spending \$163,405 during 1961, mostly in opposing President Kennedy's proposal for medical care for the aged through Social Security. The AFL-CIO was the second highest spender, reporting \$139,919. The NAM does not file spending reports, claiming that they do not try to influence legislation as a primary purpose.

7. Q—Lobbying is commonly thought to be one of the most common activities for former members of Congress. The actual number of former members who have registered as lobbyists is (a) 14; (b) 84; (c) 212?
A—(b). The total includes 16 former Senators and 68 former Representatives.

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