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Challenging the WLB

Declaring the war labor board has exceeded its authority in ordering the company to incorporate in a contract with its union employees the so-called "maintenance of membership" clause and the check-off system of collecting union dues and fees, the United States Gypsum company has rejected the board's order, contending that its employees are legally and morally free to join or not to join a union as they wish.

Asserting that congress has given the board no authority to issue such an order, the company says the board "is destroying the very essence of democracy, that is, the right of the people to make laws through their chosen representatives in congress." The letter rejecting the order continues:

"Under this maintenance of membership form of closed shop employees would surrender their freedom to the Union and would not be free to resign from the Union. The Company would be compelled to discharge every Union member who fails to maintain his Union membership in good standing (non-payment of dues, non-payment of fines, etc.). Maintenance of membership is the starting phase in establishing the closed shop, which inevitably leads to a dictatorship.

"The order violates those fundamental principles of liberty which the Company and its employees now enjoy. The employee has the inherent right to work, and in doing so, should be free to join, to refuse to join, or to resign from a Union without losing his job. The Company has the right to be free to employ the person best suited for the work.

"The order requires the Company to discriminate against an employee in direct violation of the National Labor Relations Act. It requires the Company to interfere with the free choice of its employees to resign from the Union. It requires the Company to give support to the Union by a check-off of Union dues and initiation fees from wages. It requires the Company to discriminate against its employees if they resign their membership in the Union or if the Union declares them not in good standing.

"The Union appealed to the War Labor Board for Union maintenance and check-off because of the Board's established practice of granting these provisions in every such case coming before the Board. The War Labor Board has no power to adopt any such standard of practice in violation of the provisions of the Federal Constitution. Congress alone has the power to legislate."

While its chances of being sustained in the New Deal courts should the board elect to try to enforce its order are slim, the company is to be commended for its courage in raising such a fundamental question involving the freedoms for which we are fighting.

The Stepping Stone of Sicily

Continued allied devastating block-buster raids upon the stepping stone island of Sicily, with the destruction of Axis airfields already accomplished, indicate that Sicily will be the next objective of seizure by the United Nations in the attack on Italy and centers attention on this island which is separated only by a narrow stretch of water, the strait of Messina, two miles wide, from the Italian "boot."

Sicily is triangular in shape and has an area just under 10,000 square miles. It is an elevated volcanic region, with several detached peaks, such as the great volcano of Etna (11,870 feet) in the east and Monte San Giuliano (Ancient Eryx), 2640 feet, in the extreme northwest. The whole north coast is cliff bound, despite two good harbors at Messina and Palermo, the capital. The rivers are short and useless for navigation. It has a population of four million people.

Sicily was populated before 1000 B. C. when it was invaded by the Greeks from Aegean islands. Probably the earliest inhabitants were the original Iberian race which inhabited most of southern Europe and Italy and were called Sicani from which the island received its name. The Greeks found that Phoenician trading posts had been established at various points along the coast, but gradually they were driven out. The Greek occupation was completed about 700 B. C.

Sicily has, since recorded history began, been a battleground. It has been invaded in turn by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Normans, French, Spaniards and Italians. Invaders have usually swept in from the west, east or south, where the central mountains slope gently to the sea, where allied forces are gathered.

Sicily is well fortified, studded with fortresses with good communications. As long as defenders control the railroads from Palermo to Catania, they can throw their forces against any threatened point or withdraw to the mountain heights. It can resist the most desperate assault, hence the thorough preparation by air assault being made by the Allies.

Whether the garrison fights to a finish depends upon its morale—and it is reported to be none too high.

Saving Jobs for Servicemen

The city commission of Portland has before it a proposal to amend the city charter in a manner which should receive serious consideration by Salem and all other cities operating under civil service. It contemplates a limitation upon the tenure of all new civil service employees to the "duration, plus six months."

Under the plan all new civil service appointees would be required to relinquish their jobs six months after the war ended and compete with war veterans in examinations to succeed themselves. The amendment would not apply to those who have taken the places of civil service employees who have resigned to enter or who have been called for military duty. Under state law and city enactments these soldiers and sailors are already guaranteed return to their civilian jobs when the war is over.

It is obviously unfair to the men in uniform to deny them an opportunity to compete for the permanent positions in public employment which come under civil service. Unless some such action is taken these men will return home to find themselves excluded from a lot of choice positions for which they are fully qualified, because the civil service waiting list will be long with names of those serving temporarily during leaves of absence. And it is a general rule that civil service employees on the "laid-off" list take precedence over those who may subsequently qualify by examination. Governmental bodies should be the last to put obstacles in the path of returning servicemen in search of jobs.

Salem Boys Among Law Class Winners

Corvallis, June 21 (AP)—Awards were presented here yesterday at the close of the seventh annual Beaver Boys State meeting, sponsored by the American Legion to teach democratic practices to Oregon youths.

A speaking contest in the

geopolitics class was won by Bill Hedrick, Medford. Art Ohling, Albany, was among the prize winners.

Winners in a law class contest included Arthur Engelbart of Salem. Leo Reed of Salem was selected among four top lawyers.

Peter Hoar, Salem, won a history class prize. John Heilbroner, Klamath Falls, won the horseshoe singles title and Sam Barker and John Lee, Salem, the doubles crown.

Life's Little Lessons

By Beck



Finn Brothers Rise Rapidly By Valiant Action in War

The Finn brothers, two lieutenant-colonels from Oregon, have brought fame on four occasions to their home town of McCoy in Polk county. Both are natives of Polk county, both are graduates of New York military academy, both are West Pointers and their rise as officers has been as spectacular as was that of their father, J. Waldo Finn, Polk county farmer and stock buyer, who entered the army as a buck private in March of 1917 and wound up in France as a captain of infantry.

Elder of the brothers is Lieut.

Col. Ryder W. Finn, 33, United States army air force pilot. A first lieutenant stationed in Newfoundland early in this war, he climbed three grades in eight months and was made a lieutenant colonel at Langley field, Virginia, in January.

Patrol Record Rewarded

In April, Brigadier General Westside T. Larson, commanding the army air forces anti-submarine command, New York, announced the award of the air medal to Colonel Finn "for extraordinary achievement while participating in more than 200 hours of anti-submarine patrol."

He was commissioned in the air forces in 1935 after completing flight training at Kelly and Randolph fields in Texas.

Lieut. Col. John M. Finn, 29, was promoted from major to his present grade on the field of battle. He led advancing units which landed west of Holtz bay and stormed the heights on Attu island, outflanking Jap gun positions. Major General E. L. Landrum, commanding the United States invasion forces, announced the promotion "for bravery in action and gallantry on the field of battle."

Was Hero in Attu

In a delayed dispatch from Attu dated May 28, Howard Handelman, International News Service correspondent, related that Colonel Finn, wearing a helmet punctured by a Jap bullet that grazed him, directed his troops in wrestling from the Japs the Fishhook, a line of peaks encircling Chichagof harbor.

During that engagement, observing the heroism of George Mirich of Klamath Falls, who single-handedly cleaned out nine Jap fox holes, he promoted Mirich to sergeant on the spot.

Lieut. Col. John M. Finn was graduated from West Point in 1938.

The parents of the brothers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Waldo Finn, live at McCoy.

Howell Prairie Pioneers

By E. B. Fletcher

In 1871, Mrs. La Joy and her sons, Louis and Henry, lived in a small log house where the Mathias Dunn home is now located. The neighbors called this home the "family of contrasts."

Mrs. La Joy was large, while the sons were slightly underweight. They had no means of getting about, except a shaggy-manned, large horse and a small, bang-tailed pony with a roach-ed mane.

Mrs. La Joy never seemed to be in much haste, as she rode the big horse twice a week to Silverton to market. The groceries were placed at opposite ends of a long sack, and slung across the horse's back behind the old-fashioned side saddle. She never was known to ride faster than a walk, while the sons rode the pony bareback, at break-neck speed. Mrs. La Joy seemed happy and sometimes sang as she rode, in long riding skirt, moving her body in a rocking manner, as if to keep time with the gait of the old horse.

The most important use for hitching this contrasting team together was to "snake," or draw logs for fuel. These logs were worked into lengths for the fires by a cross-cut saw. This was operated by Mrs. La Joy at one end and Henry at the other. Responsibility for earning the family living fell on Lou—the older boy's shoulders. He worked for the neighbors and was seldom at home except on Sundays.

(Continued)

Dunham Says—

Umatilla Rapids Dam May Be Sidetracked Plans of Engineers Being Ignored U. S. Builds Airbases But Can't Get Title

By Paul Dunham

Washington, June 21.—According to the comprehensive plan for the development of the Columbia river the next dam should be built at Umatilla rapids, and this has been the plan of the army engineers. Such a dam would increase the power of Bonenville hydroelectric dam in the mid-Columbia section. However, there is a scheme on foot to sidetrack constructing a dam at Umatilla and build up the water reserve on the upper Columbia to enhance the power at Grand Coulee and also provide water for the reclamation feature of the Columbia basin project.

At a time when the Bonneville power administrator is nervous about what will happen to the government plans in Columbia river after the war, with the possibility of losing some first class customers now engaged in war work, it is proposed to greatly increase the power output of Grand Coulee and, incidentally, Bonneville. Government officials have asserted that there is no power shortage in the Pacific northwest, with the present equipment of government and private plants, nevertheless a drive is being conducted to generate more power.

Plot Scented

Montana and Idaho, since they discovered that the further development of power at Grand Coulee will destroy thousands of acres in those states by the construction of dams, swamping a great area of fertile land, are charging that behind the plan for more dams to produce power for customers who do not exist, is a plot to take these waters of Montana and Idaho (without payment) to irrigate the reclamation phase of the Columbia basin area. As the Montana and Idaho protestants contend, those states will be deprived of valuable taxable land to irrigate thousands of thirsty acres of land in Washington, thereby increasing the value of desert land in Washington at the expense of Idaho and Montana.

In this design to generate more power from the Columbia the plans of the engineers for Umatilla are ignored. Engineers have stated that Umatilla is an ideal place for a navigation dam plus power and that when there is a market for more power than is now being developed the place to put the next dam is at Umatilla rapids. This recommendation of the army engineers is being sidetracked in the effort to build up greater generating facilities at Grand Coulee and impound waters in Montana and Idaho to service the irrigation district, which calls for the reclaiming of 1,200,000 acres. Under Secretary of the Interior Abe Fortas, who has been deferred by the draft because Harold Ickes insists that Fortas is an indispensable man, is in pitching for the Grand Coulee program. Umatilla, apparently, has friends only in the Oregon delegation, although it is as important to Washington as it is to Oregon. Umatilla was cast aside for Bonneville originally; then Grand Coulee was started as a political pay-off to Clarence Dill, and now Umatilla may not be built for a generation or more if the current Grand Coulee cry for more generating capacity is successful.

Army and navy have spent \$833,000,000 building airfields, housing and other things in British possessions. So far as the American taxpayer is concerned this money is a free gift, but it is not charged up to lend-lease. There are a couple of sandpits in the Pacific on which the United States has poured money for aviation bases. United States has claimed title to these sandpits but the British refuse to recognize the American claim and have dispatched civil administrators to these islets. There are 20 islets, large and small, whose only value is that they can be used to defend the United States. Military experts assert they would not protect any other nation. On these islands \$913,960,000 has been spent by army and navy, but the countries owning these outposts will not give title to the United States, which has saved these islands from invasion.

In addition to lend-lease, the expenditures of army and navy exceed one and a half billion dollars, all on foreign soil. On these islands and mainland of Latin-America Uncle Sam has paid for the installations and paid for 85 per cent of the native labor.

Not shown in lend-lease (United States has given five times as much to Britain as Britain has given to United States) are the expenditures by this coun-

Serving Uncle Sam

Among the 49 men attracted by navy service and signing with the fleet in Portland Saturday were Edwin Harold Ziltow, Salem; Arlie Leon Mathews, Sheridan; William Stanford Duncan, Ray Hubert Elliott and Maurice Leroy Todd, all of Silverton; John Janzen, West Salem; Willard Earl Mathews and John Edward Thompson, both of Woodburn; Robert D. Keller, Jr., Albany; Charlie Arthur McCall, Gervais; Harry Christopher Christensen, Lebanon, and Francis Anthony Deneke, Mt. Angel.

Arthur Douglas Parkes, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Parkes, 235 North 15th street, Salem, has arrived at the U. S. naval training station at Farragut, Idaho.

Thoughts brought about through the observance of Memorial day "somewhere in Australia" are contained in a letter received by Mrs. F. J. Boyd, 170 North 23rd street, from her son, Lieut. Alvin H. Boyd. "Today was Memorial day," writes Lieut. Boyd. "To me this is the first real Memorial day I have ever seen. A day when we think of the past. At home Memorial day was merely a holiday and the day for the Indianapolis race. Today I sat and listened to the Memorial day sermon. Not in an elaborate church but at a little gathering here beneath the trees 'somewhere in Australia.' As we listened to the sermon I could see tears in the eyes of some of the boys. Perhaps they were thinking back to a short time ago when they were lying in a muddy, water-filled fox-hole and perhaps next to them lay their best friends who never came back. When I thought of that I realized what Memorial really is. As Abraham Lincoln said 'that these dead shall not have died in vain we are fighting for a great cause and one of these days it will be finished and we can return home. We will probably be back in the front lines again soon and some of us will perhaps not return. But those of us who 'throw the flaming torch' will know that it has not been in vain."

Dayton—Fairen Sion, turret gunner sergeant in the eighth army in Europe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sion of Dayton, reported missing May 1, is one of those boys who may return. New hope has been given by a letter received here, dated June 7, written by a flight officer. It reads:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sion: First I'll introduce myself: Flight Officer Cockrell, and I am writing in regards to your son, Sgt. Fairen Sion. I know you received word from Washington, and I understood just how brief the message was. I don't want to build any false hopes, but I would like to say that I have every good reason to believe that Sgt. Sion is as well right now as I am. I am sorry I can't tell you any more or give any details, but that is my belief."

"I would like to add that Sgt. Sion was a member of our crew for four months, and I've never seen a better soldier. His job was one that never had to be checked, because it was always done well and on time. 'If you get any news I would appreciate it if you would write and let me know.'"

"Sincerely, Charles Cockrell."

Salem Heights—Staff Sergeant Wade Dickinson recently returned to Salem from Salina air base, Salina, Kans., where he has been stationed the past seven months. On June 1, he received a discharge from active service, being transferred to the civil air patrol.

Monmouth—Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Gentile that their son, Major Hjalmar T. Gentile, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel. Hjalmar is a graduate of OCE, the University of Oregon and the university medical school in Portland. After interning at the call of the government to be district surgeon for northern California and southern Oregon in the CCCs. At the outbreak of war, he served as surgeon on board troop transportation in Alaskan waters, covering over 25,000 miles in this service. After four months as port physician in Seattle he was assigned to the

try in the lands south of the border. RFC has spent \$432,600,000 buying in Central and South America and paid for the materials at war prices, the materials to become war munitions. The board of economic warfare has expended millions; the export-import bank has loaned \$71,000,000; commodity credit corporation has been operating in the southland. To get out rubber from the jungles the United States has spent a king's ransom in sanitation work alone.

Job of equipping and organizing a 350-bed hospital, of which he is now in charge. Another son, Maurice Gentile, who is now with the navy, is pharmacist's mate, stationed at Treasure Island in San Francisco bay. Recently he worked in the Mare Island navy yard at Vallejo.

Bill Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Nelson, who until recently was a student in radio transmission in the signal corps of the army, was released a short time ago on account of his age and is now doing military police duty in Los Angeles.

Lucius Forbes, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Forbes, Sr., is now at the Aberdeen, Md., ordnance proving grounds for three months. He has been commissioned a second lieutenant.

Second Lieut. Gordon G. Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Black, 210 North Commercial street, has been graduated from the reserve officer's class at the U. S. marine corps base, Quantico, Va., and awaits assignment to a combat unit or specialist's school for further training. Lieut. Black is the husband of Geraldine Black of Freewater, Ore.

Ready to begin an intensive training program toward becoming members of the fighting fleet, are several Salem men who reported to the U. S. naval training station at Farragut, Idaho. These Salem recruits are Ansel Trone Ramey, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Ramey, route 4; James Howard Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Smith, 1025 North Church street.

Gervais—Frank W. Stravens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Stravens, was promoted to corporal at the army advanced flying school, Douglas, Ariz.

Cpl. Joseph C. Hill left last night for Fort MacArthur, Calif., after having spent 10 days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hill, 2240 North Fifth street, Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Hill entertained with a supper at which all their children were present. Those attending were Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson and daughter, Miss Janet; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hill and daughters, Miss Shirley and Miss Marilyn; Cpl. Joseph C. Hill and Miss Vada Hill. A son-in-law, Lieut. W. D. Wilkinson, is with the army air forces overseas.

Mt. Angel—Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hoffer were hosts at dinner on Friday evening in compliment to their nephew, Gilbert Hoffer, seaman 2/c in the United States navy, here on furlough the past week. Covers were placed for the honored guest, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoffer, Victor Hoffer, Miss Regina Hoffer, Paul Hoffer, Robert Hoffer, Mrs. Gene Hoffer, the hosts and their family.

Dallas—Jim Boydston, with the U. S. army engineers at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for the past several months, was among those called on flood control work during the recent flood in that area, according to a letter written by him to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Boydston, former Dallas residents now living in Portland.

Jefferson—Mr. and Mrs. John De Wall of Jefferson left Thursday for San Francisco to visit their son, Sgt. Walter De Wall, and their new daughter-in-law, Mrs. De Wall. Sgt. De Wall was married June 3 to Miss Louise Boswell at the Presidio. He has been in the service since January, 1942.

Virgil Wilson, navy cook at Pasco, Wash., and Mrs. Wilson visited his father, A. Wilson and family last week. They also visited Mrs. Wilson's family at Fruitland. He was on a five-day leave.

Unionvale—Vernon Coberly came Tuesday to spend a portion of his 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Coberly and other relatives here, enroute from Farragut, Idaho, to "training base" in California. Thursday he accompanied his father to the Oregon shipyards, where he is employed.

Silverton—Lieut. Oscar Specht, son of the Carl Spechts, is with the ferry command based in the United States and has made many trips since January 11, 1942, having received his wings two days previous, and on active duty since that time. He received his wings at Mather Field, Calif. His brother, Lieut. Lyle Specht, with the marines 6th engineers, is somewhere in the Pacific, and is improving from a lengthy hospitalization as the result of a fever contracted in the jungles. His latest letter home told of his again being

able to have a hand in the "mopping up" at Guadalcanal. Lieut. Lyle also said in no uncertain terms that he absolutely didn't want to quit the job a minute, even for a visit home, until the whole thing was finished and that his pals out there felt the same way about it.

With the acceptance of Miss Louise Specht in the navy when her nursing course is finished in January, the three children of the Carl Spechts will be in active service, and an older brother, Raymond, is doing a special job in an airplane factory in Los Angeles where he and his wife reside.

Woodburn—A group of men from the area of the Woodburn draft board left Friday morning for Portland to take their army physical and if passed will be in the armed forces with a short period at their homes before being called to active duty.

William Lincoln Bentley of Woodburn was appointed leader of the group and William Stanford Duncan of Silverton was appointed assistant leader.

Those leaving were: From Woodburn, Willard Earl Mathews, John Edward Thompson, Melvin Dale Collins, William Lincoln Bentley, Virgil Lefroy Davis and Steve Antone Kadimas, a transfer from Lakeview.

From Salem, Glenn Adam Elter, Ernest Lawrence Mattison. From Mt. Angel, Edward Michael Flanagan, Francis Arthur Deneke. From Silverton, Henry Martin Ohrt, Maurice Leroy Todd, Rhynold Frederick Wirtlin, Bert Allen Burr, Francis Allen Giroux, William Stanford Duncan, Ray Hubert Elliott, John Anthony Strobel, From Brooks, Edwin Harold Ziltow. From Gervais, Elmer Leon Bierly, Charlie Arthur McCall. From Hubbard, Kenneth Harold Parka. From Portland, Charles Joseph Schoencker.

From Clatsop, Louis John Pace, Carl Gordon Wood, Robert Alvisches Edder. From Aurora, Carlton Allen Peterson, transferred from Iowa.

Transferred to active service for induction were Elmer LaVon Hundacker to Brigham, Utah; Robert Franklin Chase, to London, Nebraska; Leonard Raymond Rambo to Houston County, Minnesota; Preston Gus Davis to Pacific County, Washington.

Silverton—Major Ray Vandiver and Mrs. Vandiver (Belle Leonard), flew from The Dalles Sunday forenoon to spend two days at the home of Mrs. Vandiver's parents, the T. T. Leonards. Major Vandiver is to report in Washington, D. C., June 24, to arrange for his direct furlough leave from duty and will return for a longer visit in Silverton at that time. The Dalles homecoming planned by his parents, the A. C. Vandivers, will be arranged after his return west.

Don Kinzer, with the merchant marine, has completed his training at Catalina Island and is now stationed in Portland. He joined the merchant marine the first of April and was home to spend the weekend with his mother, Mrs. May Kinzer, 1320 State street.

Justice of the Peace Joseph B. Felton received a letter from Lieutenant Talbot Bennett, who is with the United States marines at San Diego. Lieutenant Bennett was assistant district attorney before his enlistment in the marines.

Captain Parker Gies of the U. S. army air service who is stationed at a northwest air base with a fighter squadron, spent Friday night and Saturday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Gies and with Mrs. Miles C. Branch, 965 Garnet St., mother of Mrs. Parker Gies. Prior to being transferred to the northwest Captain Gies was stationed in southern California.

Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. Vinnie Heinz (Kiehl Van Winkle) received a picture of their son, Leonard Heinz, Friday from San Diego, taken officially on the occasion, two weeks ago, of his receiving his paramarine wings, being one of 20 of his platoon to make the grade of stiff tests. Heinz was awarded a medal as expert rifleman during his "boot schooling" at San Diego. He is now in a school battalion replacement company. He has been in the service since February.

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