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Belated Union Purge Begins?

The AFL-CIO executive committee has unanimously ordered three unions, the Laundry, Distillery, and Allied Industrial Workers, to clean out "corrupt influences or face suspensions within 90 days and eventual permanent suspension." The action was based on 1955 senate welfare fund disclosures, of "being dominated, controlled and substantially influenced by corrupt influences."

These unions have a combined membership of 1,700,000 and were ordered to "eliminate these corrupt influences" and bar from office those who have "tolerated or are responsible for these abuses." Doubts were expressed by George Meany, AFL-CIO president, whether the three unions would conduct the purge, but he wants to give them an opportunity to.

Attorneys for the accused unions claim there was no evidence to warrant the council's action, and the clean-up orders were vague. Meany said the unions were well aware of the corrupt influences but will be given other chances for 90 days to show they have reformed. If not, suspension stands.

The charges include one that an indicted distillery workers union official received \$650,000 from the insurance broker who handled the union welfare fund accounts. Similar charges of alleged mishandling of welfare funds in the other two unions were also cited.

The 30-member Senate probers, headed by Senator McClellan (D-Ark.), will start a year-long probe of labor union racketeering tie-ups shortly. Its chief counsel is Robert Kennedy, assisted by 10 or 15 investigators. Meany is to be congratulated on his clean-up campaign.

So the prospects look good for a purge of union gangsters and goons, which may yet include questioning of Dave Beck, kingpin of the biggest union of them all, the Teamsters, who has been located in Nassau, Bahamas, with air tickets to Europe—"just getting a rest."—G.P.

These Bills Should Pass

Among bills that should be given top priority in the Oregon Legislature, and listed in the "must" category, are those for the welfare and instruction of children and adults who are mentally retarded.

The demands for these measures are twofold. One is the growing number of the mentally-retarded. At Fairview Home, where the present population is 1900, there is a waiting list of 388. Thousands of others are not in institutions, a limited number of them receiving special instruction under the school system.

The other reason is that these persons should be comfortable and happy, given opportunity to become as useful as may be, and extended all the sympathy and respect given persons with any other disability.

One of the bills in the Legislature, prepared by the special education division of the State Department of Education, would remove the restriction of the present law which limits special instructional classes "in any school district, county or region" to two in any fiscal year. The present restrictive law doesn't meet the demand. A companion bill would increase from \$40,000 to \$120,000 annually funds for the special class program.

Another bill is the biennial appropriation measure for Fairview Home, which totals \$3,315,000 for expansion of personnel and services, including a building to provide 600 new beds for patients.

The third bill would set up a joint legislative interim committee on mental retardation. Approval of this bill, it is said, "will be a milestone in the development of state programs for all mentally-retarded children and adults." Its studies and reports will be valuable to the 1959 and later Legislatures.

Strongly backing the bills is the Oregon Association for Retarded Children, which is authority in the cause it represents so capably. Through local units it is making its influence felt in several communities of the state.

Research Bureau a Useful Agency

One of the most useful agencies in this state is the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service at the University of Oregon.

Coming to the editorial desk from time to time are bulletins and memoranda from the bureau, prepared simply and concisely, dealing with the variety of problems and issues with which municipal and state governments have to concern themselves. They contain valuable matter for the editorial and the news writer, and are equally valuable for persons of any other occupation who are interested. They are, as they should be, purely informative and unbiased.

Latest to be received are the bureau's annual compilation of property tax levies in Oregon cities, and a separate memorandum on the trends in assessed values of taxable property in Oregon.

The two have the answers to almost any question that can be asked about assessment and taxation in Oregon, presented in explanatory text and numerous tables, and the memorandum has much to say about the property reappraisal movement in the state. Their publication is timely, in the early days of the 1957 Legislature, where taxation is a paramount subject.

For the information compiled, the bureau relies largely on the county assessors and the State Tax Commission, to whom it gives credit. The convenience of the documents is that the assessment situation in any community can be found almost at a glance.

Personal compliments are in order, to Herman Kehrl, director of the bureau, and two others to whom he gives credit—Thomas Rigby, bureau research assistant, who prepared the bulletin on city tax levies, and Mrs. Norma Frazee, who compiled the tables and made the calculations.

Cruel Law in England

The theory about the dominance of mind over matter doesn't seem to be working among the rich men of England.

England has a law designed to prevent rich men, before they die, from giving their money to relatives to keep it out of the hands of the inheritance tax collector, who can, if the estate is big enough, take 80 per cent of it. A provision of the law is that the gift must be made at least five years before the giver's death, or the tax man gets it anyway.

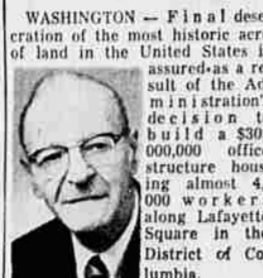
So, when rich old uncle gives his money away he makes a project of living five years or more, which, when you think about it, is all for the benefit of the relative. He bends every mental effort to his will to live. But it seems to work in reverse. He worries himself to death, and Lord Webb-Johnson, an eminent English physician, reports that these wealthy men are dying off by the dozens before the end of five years.

It's a cruel law, the doctor says. It sure is. Imagine the strain of living in—all that money in the bank and not knowing how to get it out to have the fun of spending any of it.

The situation may change the usual English screen plot. Instead of the relatives conniving to bring about uncle's demise they'll be trying to keep the old boy alive.

RAY TUCKER

Tucker Hits Desecration Along Lafayette Square



RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON — Final desecration of the most historic acre of land in the United States is assured—as a result of the administration's decision to build a \$30,000,000 office structure housing almost 4,000 workers along Lafayette Square in the District of Columbia.

Next door was the house where one of John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators tried to kill Edwin Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War.

In this same house lived the man who brought the first rule to the United States. And here resided Chief Justice Taney, whose Dred Scott decision helped to precipitate the Civil War.

Across the Square, on Jackson Place, Teddy Roosevelt and his rambunctious brood dwelt in a soon-to-be destroyed brownstone during the renovation of the White House. And abutting the corner are the Blair-Lee homes.

They are now the repository of wandering royalty such as King Saud, but they are more memorable as the spot where Robert E. Lee rejected Lincoln's offer of a Union command, and decided to fight for Virginia. The great Lee hated slavery and secession, but he loved his Virginia.

Untouched Classic Symbols

Two classic symbols of ancient times and American titans will remain untouched. One is the statue in the Square of "Andy" Jackson, sitting astride a galloping horse that seems to defy the law of gravity.

The other is the squat, solid and shuttered, early Eighteenth Century dwelling, where Stephen Decatur, the renowned naval commander who bearded Napoleon's Mediterranean pirate predecessors, died after his Bladensburg, Md., dual with Commodore James Barron.

It was Decatur who gave this country its most honored toast, and one which is peculiarly appropriate today:

"Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be right! But our country, right or wrong!"

GEORGE GALLUP

Approval of Labor Unions At All-Time High in U.S.

By GEORGE GALLUP, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 8 — Organized labor in the United States has more friends than at any time in the last 21 years, a nationwide survey of American voters indicates today.

As part of its continuous studies of public opinion concerning U.S. labor, the American Institute of Public Opinion has asked at repeated intervals whether the public approval of labor unions in principle.

These surveys were the first to show that a sizable majority of Americans were not "anti-union." The first study in 1936 found 72 per cent in favor of unions, with 20 per cent opposed and 8 per cent expressing no opinion.

Today, a comparable study finds 76 per cent approving of unions, with 14 per cent disapproving and 10 per cent expressing no opinion.

The survey question put to people in all walks of life by Institute reporters:

"In general, do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?"

Approve 76%
Disapprove 14%
No opinion 10%

This is not to say that the public approves of all union policies and practices or that the public considers all strikes justified. But there is no denying that the public is overwhelmingly sympathetic to labor's right to organize for collective bargaining.

Over the years the Institute's index has provided a running picture of the country's sympathies where the problems of organized labor are concerned.

Even at the height of the "sit-down strikes" in the summer of 1937, which most Americans disapproved, the great majority continued to approve of labor unions in principle.

It was during the year preceding our entry into World War II that a marked falling off in public support of unions occurred and "anti-union" sentiment reached its peak. This was a year marked by a series of strikes and stoppages in key defense industries.

Not until 12 years later did unions recoup this loss in popular favor, as the following trend table of national sentiment since 1936 shows:

Year	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
1936	72	20	8
1937	72	20	8
1938	68	24	8
1939	64	22	14
1940	61	20	19
1941	61	20	19
1942	64	25	11
1943	62	22	16
1944	62	22	16
1945	75	18	7
TODAY	76	14	10

Retirement is made easy for older workers who are to get more in a year than they had paid in a life. It is the youngsters who will pay and pay. **GEORGE GALLUP** is a nationally known business and labor expert. He is himself working against the American County Journal.

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A Matter of Defense



DAVID LAWRENCE

Some Seek New Limits for Contributions to Campaigns

WASHINGTON—There's nothing in the constitution which says a person cannot spend as much of his own money as he pleases to persuade other persons to vote for a particular candidate for public office.

In these days of solicitude for "civil rights," talk has arisen never the less about enacting a new law to limit campaign contributions. It relates to a possible requirement that only limited amounts of money may be placed in a party treasury or in the hands of an organized political committee.

The whole theory behind the federal corrupt practices act is that organized effort may be regulated only if it be used for some corrupt or illicit purpose. But the courts in the last few years have told the Department of Justice it could not invoke the federal corrupt practices act to prosecute a labor union in Michigan that was financing a television program on which speakers favorable to its viewpoint appeared during an election campaign.

Most Act as Individuals

While it is true, of course, that corporations and unions are by law forbidden to make any campaign contributions, this cannot prevent union members or corporation stockholders from acting as individuals outside the unions or corporations.

Some form of regulation—such as disclosure of funds contributed by anyone—can be valid without in any way altering the right of the individual to give as much money as he pleases to the cause in which he believes. But it is one thing to require publicity for campaign contributions and a different and doubtful procedure to try to limit by law the size of the contribution.

The same constitution which permits a law to say that a foundation may spend tax-free income derived from philanthropic bequests and use millions of dollars a year to influence public opinion on any cause, ranging from socialism and theoretical communism to an espousal of the free-enterprise system, can be invoked by any citizen to safeguard his freedom of speech when he spends money as an individual in a political campaign.

Anything of Value

If Congress could say, for example, that no more than \$500 or \$5,000 may be spent to elect a candidate for public office, it could constitutionally say also what sums may be expended by the citizen for any purpose related to the selection of a nominee for office. The citizen might then be forbidden to use his automobile to transport persons to the polls; as this would be a "contribution." He might be prohibited from letting his home be used as a meeting place or from serving any refreshments to his guests if they talked about the current campaign.

The word "contribution" is defined by present law as "anything of value." Yet corporate employees and union members continue to draw their regular salaries while spending days at a time at a campaign headquarters or making election speeches. The supreme court in 1948, moreover, upheld the right of a union to publish and distribute its own newspaper and insert political messages therein. The court refused to ban this sort of thing on the ground that when a corporation publishes a message giving its views on

public questions, it is improperly subjected to criticism.

Bill of Rights Guarantee

The Bill of Rights of the constitution protects freedom of speech. Under it, any man has a right to advocate any cause during or before any campaign. Expenditures may be made by the individual for any purpose except to impinge on the rights of other voters or to participate in any kind of fraud or deception.

It is constitutional to prohibit anyone from attempting to bribe or unduly influence a candidate for public office in order to obtain some personal favor or beneficial action by such individual when elected, but it is hard to see how a citizen who spends his money to help elect someone and doesn't ask a thing for himself can be told he can spend only a specified sum.

Broadly speaking, Congress has the right to control federal elections, though for years there were legal doubts as to whether federal laws could regulate expenditures in primary contests for federal office. But certainly there is no federal right to control the spending of individuals for local purposes—for county or state candidates.

How, for instance, can a political committee which is set up to help both state and federal candidates be required to separate exactly how much it is spending for each when it erects a banner or some other big sign on the highway which says merely "Vote Democratic" or "Vote Republican"?

Rich Gave Heavily

The subject of limiting campaign contributions has been up again and again for consideration by Congress. Every now and then—as happened last week—there is issued a report by a congressional committee pointing with criticism to the large amounts of money contributed to political parties by various individuals and families with wealth. All the money, however, contributed by the very rich is small in proportion to the total sum collected.

The inference that the rich get something out of it that nobody else does, or that there is something wrong with large contributions, is derived from past evidence of alleged irregularities. Congress, of course, can still refuse to admit to membership anyone for whom an excessive amount was spent or anyone who himself has been engaged in wrongful practices to secure an election victory.

To declare, on the other hand, that an individual can be limited in what he contributes when it is spent for a lawful purpose and without any connection with any bribe or improper influence, is to say that the individual can be prevented by law from spending his money for a cause that seems worthy to him. There is nothing in the constitution which says the citizen can be deprived of such a civil right.

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BEN MAXWELL

Civic Groups Moved Against Bergman Show

Feb. 8, 1950

Rev. Wesley Turner, pastor of the Leslie Methodist church, had said that he expected to summon members of the civic and reform committee to discuss possible action against presentation of the movie "Stromboli" at local theaters.

A \$3 million dollar high school in South Salem with elementary classrooms in needed parts of the city had been proposed as a school improvement program for public consideration.

These prices were advertised at Safeway this day seven years ago: Brand name coffee, 73c a lb.; grade A butter, 69c a lb.; grade A eggs, breakfast gems, 43c a doz.; smoked ham, top quality, 49c a lb.

Gov. Douglas McKay had told delegates to the fourth annual convention of United States Hop Growers meeting in Salem that too much government control over agriculture's products, including hops, would bring eventual disaster.

Speaking at a Jefferson meeting of the Santiam Flax Growers Association, Harry Dorman, state budget director, had warned that lack of cooperation between members of the association, or lack of uniformity of their product, would wreck the industry that brings millions of dollars to the state. Dorman pledged state support of the state flax industry so long as members continued to cooperate with one another.

Salem's streets had been damaged to the extent of \$12,000 by recent cold weather, the greatest damage occurring to unpaved streets with only a gravel surface. Damage would have been much greater with a record low of -10 on Jan. 31, 1950 had not the ground been covered by snow.

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