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Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

A knotty problem confronting Union Labor in post-war is the status of the returning service-men who seek work in closed or union shop plants. The question will be raised as to whether these men shall be charged the regular initiation fees and dues for the privilege of working in such plants or whether some special dispensation shall be granted them.

Some unions have planned to meet the issue by waiving initiation fees and granting substantial discounts in dues for a limited period. But most of them have not yet formulated plans to meet the situation.

The outcome of the referendum in California on the Amendment to Article I of the California State Constitution will throw some light on this subject by indicating public opinion on the matter of compulsory union membership as a prerequisite to obtaining and holding employment. The Amendment states that every person has the right to work without being forced to join a union and makes unlawful anything that impairs that right. There is a possibility of conflict with the Wagner Labor Act, in so far as the NLRB directives are concerned but not with the original text of the Act. It is not likely that NLRB would attack the California amendment if it passed next November, however, as it would be construed all over the country as a voice of the sovereign people. We can look for a bitter campaign against it by the more militant labor groups who view it as their Armageddon.

As union labor is very strong in California, the amendment cannot be passed without the votes of a substantial number of union members. If it is approved, then, union labor must do it.

That the irresponsible acts of a few strategically placed unions have brought public disapproval of all union labor is incontrovertible. The depth of that displeasure is uncertain as yet. Some labor leaders believe it is trifling. Others think it is too serious to be ignored. But it will be wise to heed it and to take steps to win back the public confidence.

The most common criticism of union labor is that it is very diligent in policing the employer's end of the bargain but very slothful and impotent in policing its own end, that it does not practice what it preaches, and that it is becoming a political tool in the hands of socialist politicians rather than an economic weapon for the protection of its members.

Even the most hostile foe of union labor will admit that it has done much in raising the standards of living in the lower income brackets. Probably most workmen think it is a good thing and want it. They are entitled to have it as their right. But the exercise of every right in America carries with it responsibility for lawful performance. It is the movement to pass the Right To Work amendment in California. It will be watched with interest.

Now that the Republican Party's convention is over and the candidates chosen to lead the party next November, we may expect a flood of propaganda attacking the Republican standard bearers and extolling the president. The latter will do little campaigning directly but will contrive to have headline events to intervene with the high-lights of the Republican campaign. It is a trick at which FDR is adept. He has worked it successfully in every campaign to date. Possibly he will get by with it this time.

During his long tenure in office he has built up a tremendous machine of office-holders, nearly all ardently seeking his re-election as a protection for their jobs. Through his control over the hundreds of bureaus he can manipulate the federal manna to shower down bounteously on doubtful States. The energetic efforts of militant elements of labor are bent on a Fourth Term. He has the enormous prestige of being the nominal commander-in-chief of our

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, July 4, 1924)

One of the oldest pioneers of Coos county passed away Tuesday evening at her home near Hoffman bridge, three miles above Myrtle Point. This was Mrs. Jemima Hoffman, who has lived in Coos county since 1855. She was 84 years of age.

In a well played game at the Bay yesterday afternoon Coquille slipped a surprise to the slipping Marshfield team and came out with the long end of a 10 to 7 score.

The Roosevelt Highway between Coquille and Bandon was officially opened yesterday for the full distance, although cars have been traveling it since Saturday.

The largest crowd ever to attend an event in Bandon was present for the opening of the Silver Spray dance hall on the bluff overlooking the ocean last Saturday night.

There were nearly 300 people at the Mast grove at Lee last Sunday, the occasion being the picnic arranged

armed forces. He commands the reluctant support of the solid south. Truly, a formidable array of political might faces the Republicans.

In spite of the dense smoke screens of diversional publicity sent up by the Administration to conceal the weakness on the domestic front, that is exactly where the battle will be fought. Foreign policy is yielding to domestic in importance. Both major parties are pretty well agreed on a common course in foreign relations. It has become evident that neither Mr. Churchill nor Mr. Stalin completely trust Mr. Roosevelt. Hence the Atlantic Charter has been scrapped and independent policies put into effect in Italy, Spain and France by our major allies without the formality of obtaining Mr. Roosevelt's approval. England and Russia are resuming former positions in European diplomacy of the balance-of-power variety and will not welcome any meddling by the United States except solely for the protection of our interests. Mr. Roosevelt has had to give up his former policy of being the umpire in Europe and has become an international-isolationist which is very close to what the Republican Party has advocated since MacKinac Island. Therefore the personal prestige of FDR in Europe has declined and with it the importance of his services at the peace table.

On the domestic front, Mr. Roosevelt's administration has proven a blessing to big business and a curse to little business. He has adopted measures to regiment all types of private enterprise through very liberal construction of what constitutes interstate commerce subject to federal rather than State control. The overhead of bureaucratic control has stifled small business though it has proven to be not particularly dangerous to big business. Thus it is that FDR, though conceiving himself as the friend of the little man, is actually his enemy. The president, being a man of high intelligence, has sensed the error of his ways and has turned from his former policies as far as he dares without forfeiting the political support of so-called liberals. If he is re-elected it is quite probable that he will swing further away and adopt a middle of the road policy towards business through sheer necessity. But he is so distrustful of private enterprise that he can not give it the stimulating leadership it must have to shoulder the burden of the terrific war debt. His re-election can hardly result in other than a depressed feeling of hopelessness among small businessmen and a decline in independent enterprise. Resort will therefore be made to government as the chief employer and to groups of large corporations or cartels which will be given controlled monopolies over the major industries.

As an answer to this, the Republican Party will present policies designed to encourage small business and to discourage governmental regimentation of enterprise. Taxes will be adjusted to ease the burden on creative enterprise and thus attract venture money into trade channels. The budget will be balanced and the enormous war debt placed on an orderly retirement schedule. The government will retire from all functioning that can be better handled by the states. There will be a drastic cut in the number of people on the federal pay-roll. Individual taxes will remain high. They will be high no matter who is elected. In short, the Republicans will bring less government by Washington and place reliance on local government closer to the people. This is the fundamental difference between the Republican and the Roosevelt systems.

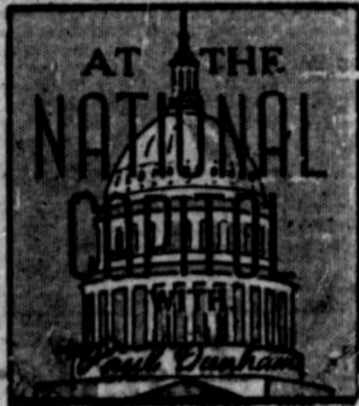
There are many in the Republican ranks who would willingly accept re-election of Mr. Roosevelt because

by the Shrine for all members of the Masonic, Eastern Star and DeMolay lodges.

A jolly crowd of their friends dropped in and surprised Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ellingson at their home Wednesday evening, the occasion being their 25th wedding anniversary.

There was a double wedding at the J. E. Norton residence on Spurgeon Hill yesterday afternoon, although early in the morning, Mr. Norton did not even know that one was to occur there. The contracting parties were Miss Erma E. Price, of Coquille, and Wm. Nettleship, of Walla Walla, Wash., and Miss Constance Prescott and Dewey Stevens, who resides in West Lake, up in Lane county. Rev. C. S. Bergner, of the Presbyterian church, performed the ceremonies at two-thirty o'clock.

J. A. Kronenberg, of Bandon, has authorized the Western World to announce that he is preparing for the immediate construction of a salt water natatorium.



Washington, D. C., July 6—In the military bill for the fiscal year 1945, beginning this July 1, there is an appropriation of \$562,000,000 to be used for relief in the territories recaptured from the German army in Europe. This is in addition to the other millions which have already been used during the fiscal year 1944. The allied armies take a district or country and then rolls in the supplies for distribution among the populace. When the army has mopped the territory and moved on to a new theatre or operations, it invites the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation administration to take over the handling of relief.

The UNRRA has asked for a tremendous sum with which to buy supplies for carrying on this work, and asked for more money than it can spend in a reasonable period. The request has been somewhat reduced, for investigation shows that there are already stockpiles of material which can be used without the UNRRA making additional purchases for some time. For example, there are \$21,700,000 worth of raw wool and \$45,500,000 of raw cotton in the United States owned or controlled by agencies of the federal government. There is a stockpile of \$190,000,000 worth of canned meat, and more than \$10,000,000 of dried beans, peas and soy products; another item is \$16,000,000 of canned fish—approximately the cost of the entire salmon pack of the northwest; \$2,500,000 of cheese and \$55,000,000 of canned milk. These goods are now in stockpile, waiting.

New supplies necessary to buy will be \$17,000,000 worth of farm machinery, \$88,870,000 of woolen garments, \$22,800,000 of cotton garments, and \$38,250,000 of shoes. The army has its relief appropriation, and now UNRRA has its money, and the two combined amount to \$1,012,000,000 for foreign relief. England has contributed its complete allotment, a

they wish him to be compelled to clean up his own mess. They expect him to be so discredited during the Fourth Term as to have his entire career destroyed. They believe he will be so badly outmaneuvered by European diplomats as to place the United States in a position comparable to that following World War I. They confidently expect him to be forced to a right about face in domestic policy and thus repudiate former New Deal associates. But this attitude is purely vindictive and not in accord with American tradition nor with the patriotic loyalty of the vast majority of those who make up the Republican Party.

The Democratic Party will present Mr. Roosevelt and his well known policies. The Republicans will strive for a restoration of private enterprise and state's rights. The voters will have the solemn duty and heavy responsibility of deciding which system will best equip America to compete in the strenuous post-war period with other nations and to maintain our position of world leadership. This will be the most important election in our history to date and the one most fraught with disaster if the choice proves wrong.

matter of \$330,000,000.

Denials to the contrary, the rumor persists that a special airplane "job" has been built in California for the use of the president when he wishes to make a trip to London, or Cairo, or Teheran, or China. There is no good reason for making a denial if the plane is a fact. The president has as much right to have a special plane as he has to use a special railroad car. The plane used by Mrs. Roosevelt when she flew to China and the south Pacific had to have various alterations for her accommodation, and if the president is to have an air liner it should be built (not transformed or reconditioned) while it is in the hands of the factory. Efforts have been made to arrange the plane which has been used on the trans-Atlantic trips as comfortable and convenient as possible, but there are things lacking.

The new White House plane is said (and it is all denied from the White House) to be the last word in air travel. No one can deny that the head of the American government is entitled to the best that science and money can produce. Some fine day the president will disappear, and later will come an announcement that he is at a certain foreign capital, and perhaps at that time the facts will be known whether a super-deluxe has been built for the head man.

The taxicab drivers in the national capital (who are supposed to know everything) are, as a rule, convinced that the war in Europe will come to an end before Christmas this year. The drivers know as much about this as the average citizen and they may be correct, but it is still a guess. A few months ago the brass hats were predicting that the war would end in 1944, but this was given such wide circulation that it slowed down production, made war bond sales harder and caused thousands to leave war industries to return home. Because of this the administration decided to see that whatever statements are issued are not so emphatic. However, the taxi drivers have now been bitten by the bug of prophecy and are willing to confidentially inform any passenger that the European conflict will soon come to an end.

There is a suspicion—but nothing more—that the porters in the leading hotels in the national capital make reservations on westbound trains, giving fictitious name, and when possible tell the reservation to a patron of the hotel who wants to go home. If there are no prospective buyers the porter can telephone and cancel the reservation. One thing is certain, porters in the larger hotels generally know whether they can get a lower, a roomette or a drawing room, and usually manage to do so for a price. It is remarkable what a porter can do for a \$10 tip.

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21 Pedestrians Killed By Cars First Five Months 1944

Motor vehicle accidents took the lives of 21 pedestrians in Oregon during the first five months of 1944, according to Secretary of State Bob Farrell.

Of the 21 pedestrians killed, 13, or 62 percent were struck in accidents occurring in cities, while seven were killed in rural accidents.

"These figures are evidence that pedestrian safety is a rural problem, as well as an urban one," Secretary Farrell said. "The rural pedestrian accidents are the result, in most cases, of failure on the part of the person on foot to exercise proper care when crossing highways. Sixty percent of the pedestrian fatalities so far involved unsafe actions on the part of the pedestrian."

"During the summer months, there will be many persons walking along rural highways and roads, going to or from farms for the harvest work. In many cases, pedestrians will be walking short distances along country roads. Drivers should be on the alert when driving in these areas, and the pedestrian should accept his share of the responsibility for his own safety. He can do this by walking only on the left facing traffic, and crossing highways only when no cars are near enough to constitute a hazard."

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"The men overseas don't mince any words about the way they want to find this country when they come marching home... go they, Judge?"

"They certainly don't, Herb... and they shouldn't. They're doing a masterful job fighting over there to protect our rights and they have good license to expect us to protect their back here at home. One thing they're mighty clear on is their stand on prohibition."

"Their position on that subject was stated very emphatically in a poll taken recently

among American service men in England by the British Institute of Public Opinion. When hundreds of men were asked point blank how they would vote on prohibition, 85% of them stated, in unmistakable terms, that they would vote against it. There's no doubt about it, Herb... the men overseas don't want any action taken on that subject while they're away."

"And they're 100% right, Judge, because I know how I felt when I came home after the last war—only to learn that we had been over there fighting for so impractical a thing as Prohibition."