

Worker's Role in Politics Analyzed

Labor's Interests Fused With Average Citizen's

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WASHINGTON. — "There never will be a Labor party in the U. S."

In the aftermath of the election, I couldn't help cogitating these words, spoken to me several years ago by an official who helped write some of the most important New Deal labor legislation a decade ago.

The reasons given were that workers in America were individuals first and members of labor unions afterward—they were primarily citizens with group interests common to other citizens. They didn't look at themselves as a political unit.

In analyzing the new congress, some people have made the mistake of pointing to the defeat of candidates conspicuously endorsed by the CIO-PAC and the victory of those marked for purge. Then, because the PAC is an institution which has behind it one of the two big international union organizations, these people imply that because of the defeat of the PAC, labor itself was defeated. As a matter of fact, labor was not beaten by any opposing group. It was not a question of labor, politically organized, meeting organized political opposition. It was a case of a lot of men who happen to belong to unions plus a lot of others who don't going to the polls and utterly disregarding the wishes of a group which had tried to attach itself to the labor union and thus proving (as my friend said) that American labor is an American citizen first and a lot of other things next and when he sits in his union meeting he is a member of that local and not a member of a political party.

I haven't the slightest doubt that many an American citizen, who otherwise might not have voted, did so because of the energetic efforts of persons inspired by the CIO-PAC booklets and contacts, the chief aim of which was to get voters to the polls. I am equally certain that of these voters who exercised their franchise chiefly because of CIO-PAC nudging, many voted quite the opposite to what the CIO-PAC wished.

GOP Win Stems From Many Causes

But this election was something more than a revolt against the frank effort of CIO to reward those who had espoused specific measures or to punish those who didn't. When Guffy, Mead and Murdock were moved down in the senate, men who certainly spoke the speech as labor considered it should be spoken, when 20 congressmen, marked for the purge at the PAC meeting in At-

lantic City last spring, were all re-elected with one exception (and that was Representative Slaughter, beaten by the President's own special efforts in the primaries); when things like that happen, you know that plenty of perfectly good union members in perfectly good standing were voting against the preachments of the PAC. Perhaps if it had not been for two other circumstances PAC's views might not have been so vehemently opposed up and down the line. Both have to do with good old American customs which spring from frontier days when emergency situations had to be met with emergency measures for the sake of simple self-preservation. One of those customs which has precedent implied all through the constitution is that too much power isn't good for anybody, and in a republic you don't elect people for life, or put one party in power indefinitely.

That is one thing that accounted for most of the votes against the "ins" regardless of the candidates' persuasions. Another factor which added to the landslide quality of the vote is the old law of action and reaction. Americans have a habit of going to extremes. They have certain tastes inherited from pioneers that make them like their music loud, their horses fast, their stakes high, their goals worth winning. They are not as fast to start either a fight or a frolic as some nations, but when they do get "het up"—oh, my! Failure to recognize that fact has caused what was the greatest military nation of its time to be licked twice in a generation.

It was this characteristic, I feel sure, which caused Americans of all sorts to swing much farther toward the conservative side than they normally would have done. Their patience had been exhausted by the efforts of a screaming minority to implant Communism on our soil and thus attempt to bring to this country the very thing from which America was supposed to be the escape, tyranny of the minority.

Of late it has become the style to sneer at the majority. The "vulgar herd" and the "mob" were the contemptuous epithets of kings. The modern majority-scorner is more careful of his language. He phrases it so that it will appeal to the "peasant and worker" or to the readers of persuasive and expensive page advertisements in metropolitan papers. The language differs when it comes from the extreme right and the extreme left, but its purpose is the same: minority rule. Totalitarianism as produced by a Hitler or a Stalin is not too different from that more subtly suggested by the powerful pressure group in a capitalistic country.

The 80th congress has a tougher job than the 79th. We hope it will be able to handle it. It was not elected to smash labor. It was elected to carry out a mandate (among others) to help keep labor from smashing itself.

Marianne Forgives Fritz

"Twas the day after Christmas in Frankfurt, Germany, 1945, when all through the ether there was static enough to make a trans-Atlantic broadcast impossible. I had an exclusive story, so I sent it as a dispatch to David Wilks, my substitute, in Washington.

The story (I said in my dispatch) would probably be denied, and I admitted it seemed incredible, for it revealed a plan of the French government to help re-populate France by admitting German war prisoners to citizenship. It seemed impossible, that, with the ancient Franco-German hatred so recently fanned to new fury, Marianne would take her

"traditional enemy" to her bosom. The story was broadcast and that was the end, until, some 10 months later, it was confirmed in a matter-of-fact statement of the French minister of population, then touring America.

A copy of the original dispatch which I exhumed from the files reflects my feeling in its incredulity as I stood amidst the ruins of a German city with the memories of a twice-devastated France clear in my mind. The idea now apparently is accepted without comment.

How well the plan will succeed, I do not know. But to me it is a comforting thought that it is being proposed because it shows so clearly how war hates are artificial things, and bear no part in the relationships between individuals.

Parties Split On Hot Issues

It may be that after the next election we can get down to the old party lines again, but it can't be done yet. There is still a pretty bad scrambling of Democrats and Republicans on many issues which will split parties as it has before.

It will be a relief if we do get back to honest labels again.

The British are still having their troubles on this score. The Conservatives, who are the "outs," have discussed changing their name. They have done it before. They have been known as the "Tory," the "Unionist" and the "National" as well as the "Conservative." Sir Hartley Shawcross, brilliant British prosecutor, taunted them about this recently and even went as far as calling them "neo-Nazis."

This sounded strange from those dignified lips which hurled one of the most restrained and yet most devastating charges against the Nuernberg war criminals that I have ever heard in a courtroom.



WISDOM OF AGE, CHARM OF YOUTH... This study of the blending of youth and age in friendship shows silver-haired Tom Davis, legal counsel for Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, intoning a bedtime prayer for a young friend, Frank Adler Jr., aged two, at Miami. For his words of wisdom, Davis is rewarded by the winsome charm of his young friend.

NEWS REVIEW

Decontrol Boosts Prices; Polar Jaunt Scheduled

Price rises all along the line accompanied decontrol of the nation's economy, with producers hiking items for full coverage of higher wages and material costs and promising lower prices when output reached volume proportions.

Biggest manufacturer in the industry, International Harvester boosted prices of farm implements and tractors 9 per cent to offset wage increases amounting to 60 per cent since 1941 and higher material costs. Declaring its intention of keeping prices at a minimum, the company stated that it based its increases on present costs and did not anticipate future higher operating expenses.

Zenith Radio corporation announced an increase of from 2 to 20 per cent on radios and radio-phonograph combinations.

Leading shoe manufacturers expected a 10 per cent rise in all standard lines as a result of the increase in the cost of hides from 15½ cents a pound to 30 cents.

Previously, General Motors and Crosley had boosted the price of passenger cars by \$100 and industry spokesmen predicted increases in some steel items, building materials, clothing, batteries and lumber.

Long held within rigid ceilings despite mounting janitorial and maintenance expenses, landlords petitioned for a 15 per cent boost in

rentals. An estimated 16 million housing units have been under rental control in addition to hotels, rooming houses and tourist camps.

HIGH JUMP:

Important Operation

Amid rumors that other nations were preparing expeditions to search for reported uranium deposits around the south pole, the U. S. announced that Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd would lead a navy contingent to Antarctica in December on a scientific study.

While Byrd's force will make exhaustive geological surveys in the polar wasteland to uncover any uranium, the famed explorer declared that his band also would undertake intensive studies of geographical, meteorological and electro-magnetic conditions. Weather developing in Antarctica affects all parts of the world.

Four thousand men, 12 ships and at least a score of aircraft will compose Byrd's operation High Jump, as the expedition will be known. No part of the task force will be kept in the region during the Antarctic winter but Byrd will establish a small base capable of supporting a small party for 18 months in the event of national need.

PANAMA CANAL:

Study Alteration

Working under a special congressional grant, top meteorologists and hydrodynamic, dredge and excavation engineers are busily engaged in studying the alteration of the existing Panama canal or construction of a new waterway to accommodate heavier modern traffic and decrease vulnerability to atomic warfare.

Erected at the turn of the century, the canal's narrow channel and locks are too small for the latest warships and merchant vessels. Water storage capacity of Gatun lake reservoir will be insufficient to handle prospective traffic by 1960 or a diversion of traffic from Suez canal in event that vital artery is closed by war.

To meet modern needs engineers are considering increasing size of reservoirs, lengthening locks from 1,000 to 1,500 feet and widening them from 110 to 200 feet. Against these plans, some technicians argue that it would be better to build a new canal with fewer curves and wider turns. However, it would be necessary to clear the bordering jungle, install sanitary facilities, and erect dock and administrative installations. The U. S. also would have to dicker with Panama for land rights.



NEW TRACTOR... Unable to buy sufficient farm tractors in the United States to supply the demand, Progreso Industrial de Mexico had this tractor designed and built for sale south of the border. It will run on gasoline, kerosene or cleaning solvent.

PRODUCTION AT PEAK

More Work Urged To Fill Needs

WASHINGTON. — To meet its mushrooming industrial needs, the nation will have to work harder or return to longer working hours, the government warned.

Although the nation's economy is running at top peacetime speed, demand for most products still is unsatisfied, an agriculture department report maintained. Harder work or longer hours, the report added, appear as the only means of boosting industrial production.

Shortages Persist. "Production of many basic materials is now near capacity, demobilization is virtually completed and unemployment is now at a level generally considered to be close to a practical minimum," it said.

"Further substantial increases in industrial production will have to be attained to a larger extent by longer hours of work and by more output per worker."

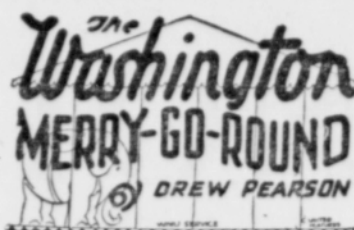
The report said the September index of industrial production stood at 177 per cent of the prewar base 1935-39 and five per cent higher than September, 1945.

"Despite large increases in the production of almost all types of consumer and producer goods, acute shortages persisted in various key lines," it added.

Incomes Still Soar. Individual income payments, meanwhile, are soaring to new highs. In August, allowing for seasonal adjustments, the national income hit a new record level of \$169,500,000,000. This was three per cent above the wartime peak hit in February, 1945.

Part of the increase was attributed to the fact that some workers already are working longer hours. Average work week in all manufacturing industries in August was 40.3 hours.

Coupled with an average wage of \$1.11 an hour, this brought the typical manufacturing paycheck to \$44.61 a week, six per cent lower than the wartime peak of \$47.50 in January, 1945, but nine per cent higher than the \$40.87 in September, 1943.



PROSPECTIVE POLICY

WASHINGTON.—With Republican leaders gathering in the capital to begin organizing their own G.O.P.-ruled congress for the first time in 16 years, here is a merry-go-round view of what the country can expect during the next two years:

FOREIGN POLICY—On the surface there will be no outward change. Later, however, important changes will become apparent. The British already are worried over our swing to the right.

BUDGET—The three largest expenditures of government are for army-navy, veterans and service on the national debt. These can't be pruned — unless the Republicans want to cut down the army and navy, which they are not likely to do. Easiest pruning job, therefore, is on foreign loans and relief. UNRRA will be the first to go. A 200 million dollar loan to Italy, planned by Truman, will be ditched next. Other loans to European and Latin American countries will be axed.

This is where one change in foreign policy comes in. The Italian loan was planned in order to help struggling Italian democracy and prevent Italy's swing to Russian Communism. Midwest Republicans, many of them still privately isolationist, will veto this.

However, the end of several wartime expenditures such as price subsidies and service separation payments should permit balancing the budget.

TAXES—Despite current talk of tax relief for small wage earners, there will be only minor tax cuts. One of two things will happen. Either expenditures will be such as to forbid major tax reduction. Or a cut will be made in the lower brackets, after which G.O.P. congressmen, pressured by higher-bracket groups, won't be able to resist the temptation to get aboard the gravy train. If they add tax reduction for the higher brackets, it means that Truman will veto the bill.

TARIFFS — Midwest Republicans would like to go back to the old Hoover high tariffs. Some of the eastern Republicans from manufacturing regions will go along with them. If they get going in earnest, however, there will be a stalemate. Truman will veto.

LABOR—One Republican faction favors immediate and outright repeal of the entire Wagner act. However, they know this would bring a veto and that the veto probably would be sustained. Another G.O.P. group wants to avoid antagonizing labor. Certain AFL leaders, especially John L. Lewis and Bill Hutchinson, carpenters' boss, helped them win the election, and they want to keep labor happy for 1948. Therefore, the following compromise is probable:

1. The Case bill will be passed once again, and this time will become law. Even if Truman vetoes, which is doubtful, southern Democrats and the strong G.O.P. majority will be able to override the White House.

2. Senator Ball's bill, putting labor unions under the anti-trust laws, also will be adopted.

IMMIGRATION—Republicans are traditionally hostile to immigration and minority groups, and the house immigration committee now is inherited by Rep. Noah Mason of Illinois, well-known witch-hunter. Displaced persons in Europe will get little comfort from Mason. A revived and stronger "Dies committee" can be expected—probably in both houses of congress.

AGRICULTURE — No major change in the farm program is in prospect for the next two years. However, you will hear the same cry for parity prices on farm products. Co-ordination of all farm agencies will be demanded.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK — Prices generally will rise during the next six months, although not so rapidly, and with some commodities such as food and textiles dropping in the winter. Food prices should slump after the Argentine and Australian crops are harvested in February. Clothing and furniture prices should come down soon, certainly after Christmas. Autos will remain scarce for some time.

Rent control will be dumped within about six months, although the Republicans will be too smart to repeal it outright. They will pass the buck back to the individual states, which will mean the virtual end of rent controls, since state legislatures are notoriously susceptible to real-estate lobbies.

That, in brief, is the future G.O.P. congressional picture.

CAPITAL CHAFF

The big brass of the navy department has been pleading with Adm. W. M. Miller, retired, now TWA vice president, to return to his old job as chief of public information. But it's no dice. Miller quit because of meddling advice from Vice Admiral Carpenter. . . . Death in office is the only thing that has ever removed a president of the United States while serving his term. Andrew Johnson escaped impeachment by one vote in 1868, but no president has ever resigned.

Quaint Salt Box, Rack for Spoons



GAY and useful kitchen equipment delights every homemaker and this quaint salt box with matching spoon rack are especially appealing. They are cut out by hand with a coping saw or with a jig saw. The box is put together with brads and glue and both pieces are decorated by stenciling with bright wax crayons such as children use. They are then varnished to fix the colors and make them water-proof.

It is all so easy to do, with so little mess or fuss that you will want to make a number of these pieces for gifts or to sell at Christmas time.

Pattern 251 gives actual-size cutting guides for the rack and all parts of the box, also stencil designs, color guide and directions for each step. To get this pattern send 15 cents with name and address direct to:

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