

# THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL  
Editor and Proprietor

## EDITORIALS

### TAX DODGERS AND ECONOMY DODGERS

A legitimate campaign against tax dodgers is something that nobody can object to. The unusual part about the present so-called campaign is, why was action delayed this long if officers of the government knew that tax evasion has been a common practice?

If there are loopholes in our tax laws, surely the Treasury Department could point them out and Congress could correct the situation in short order.

The public might be as much interested in knowing which of our public officials are responsible for permitting tax evasion to continue in the flagrant manner they claim, as it is in the names of the tax evaders.

In the meantime, however, if those who talk about saving pennies for the government from tax evaders, would spend a fraction of the energy and determination in saving billions to the government by enforcing efficiency and economy measures, some worthwhile results could be secured that might save the people of this nation heavy increases in taxes and provide less incentive to tax dodging.

The private tax dodger and the economy-dodging public official will be in the same boat in public esteem before long. The only difference between the two is that the tax dodger may cost the hard-pressed taxpayer pennies, while the official economy-dodger costs him millions.

### STRIKERS' DEMANDS CHANGE

"Since last November there has been a larger monthly average total of strikes than at any other period in the country's history with the exception of 1917," says the United States News. From November through May, exactly 2,323 strikes have occurred. They have struck 46 of the 48 states—North Dakota and Mexico being the exceptions. As is to be expected, they have been most numerous in sections of the country where industrial development is highest—Michigan, New York, New England, California. They have been least numerous in the agricultural states—Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, etc.

Even so, there is nothing unique in the number of strikes that have occurred in recent months—the World War years provide a numerical

parallel. However, as the U. S. News also points out, there is a vast and fundamental difference in the demands the strikers are making today as compared to those they made in 1917.

In practically all pre-depression strikes, labor demanded higher wages and/or shorter working weeks. The closed shop was rarely a vital issue. Today the primary demand of strikers is the closed shop. In many instances, union demands for higher wages and shorter work weeks have been met by industry—but strikes have continued, because employers refused to grant the closed shop.

This is obviously a vital change in labor's attitude. Furthermore, it has been accompanied by the entry of labor into politics on an unprecedented scale. The A. F. of L., for instance, used to keep absolutely clear of political partisanship—yet before the last election, A. F. of L.'s President Green and other high officials came out strongly in favor of the reelection of Mr. Roosevelt. And John L. Lewis, head of A. F. of L.'s rival, the CIO, is a strong Roosevelt backer, and was a major contributor to the Democratic campaign fund. He is likewise a strong influence in several of the major industrial states, notably Pennsylvania and Michigan. It is his belief that the labor movement, if it is to be successful, must be permanently and aggressively involved in politics.

This unprecedented situation has caused a definite cleavage of opinion over labor and its desires and activities. It is the general opinion among employers, for instance, that the great issue of the hour is whether labor is to run, by proxy, the government. The labor union executives and the liberal and radical publications that side with labor, feel that direct action is essential, and that such strategy as the sit-down strikes and the demand for a 100 per cent closed shop, where no non-union man may work, is necessary if labor is to receive its fair share of industry's earnings.

One thing is certain—labor is more powerful today than ever in the past. In the nineteen years ending in 1932, less than 30 per cent of strikes ended with labor winning its demands. Last year, more than 40 per cent of strikes culminated in unequivocal victories for the strikers, while in 36 per cent more, labor received part of its demands.

As every student of history knows recovery from a depression breeds strikes. This was true after the depressions of 1884, 1891, 1907, etc. However, today the issues are deeper and different, and present strikes cannot be accurately compared with those of previous decades. It is also

true that for the first time in our history, the Federal government has attempted to solve the problem through legislation—the Wagner Act creating the National Labor Relations Board.

Admittedly, the Wagner Act is one-sided—it puts responsibilities of many kinds upon employers, and few upon labor. The Supreme Court spoke of this fact in upholding the Act, but said there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent Congress from passing a one-sided law. So far the Wagner Act has certainly failed in preventing strikes—but in fairness to the Act, it should be recorded that it has seldom been invoked. In the recent steel strikes, for instance, it was not brought into force. As a result, the adequacy of the Act remains in question and is yet to be proved. General opinion holds that the Act must be extensively revised if it is to achieve real success.

### CLIMAX NEWS

July 3, 1937  
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butcher shop in Medford Monday.  
At the annual school meeting which was held at the school house of District 13 June 21, Frank Hurst was elected director for three years and Mabel Wertz was reelected clerk.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hurst motored to Medford Wednesday. Mrs. Hurst was to have undergone a minor operation.

Master Jack and Bob Frederick were dinner guests at the Wertz home Thursday evening.

Phil Wertz is doing chores for Frank Hurst during Mr. Hurst's absence.

The first hay of the season was cut Thursday. So far the farmers in this region have been lucky in not having any hay damaged by the recent rain.

Farmers in this vicinity are busy cultivating corn at the present time.



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