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AMERICAN

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Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

WHAT, NO LABOR LAWS?

It seems unreasonable that trade unions like the AFL and the CIO should ask for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, while a crippling strike on the high seas has tied-up shipping and put the Merchant Marine out of business. One report is that an effort will be made by the new Administration to scuttle the Taft-Hartley Act and its predecessor the Wagner Act. Well—independent of what National industries or trade union bosses and new members of Congress may think, the fact is that labor strikes are one of the underlying causes for inflation.

And it also seems perfectly reasonable to expect that differences between employers and wage earners should be adjusted in the future—by leaving out strikes. The scheme to combine "one-fourth of the Taft-Hartley with three-fourths of the Wagner Act" is a childish scheme that may very well be ditched. Why? Under the old Wagner Act President Roosevelt took the law in his own hands and set-up commission, arbitrators, and other hand-picked politicians to "win" the strikes—the way they were told by the President of the United States.

President Truman has brought the Taft-Hartley Act into the open. He vetoed it twice, and Democrats joined Republicans in passing it over those vetoes.

John L. Lewis was an outstanding figure in proving that the Courts of the land are to be trusted in interpreting the Taft-Hartley Act. The decisions of Judge Goldsborough received the approval and the applause of the American public.

Incidentally, while this correspondent for your American is "neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet" he has said in this cor-

respondence to Family papers throughout the Nation that wasteful strikes should cease to be considered as a political issue. When the question is debated and argued forwards and backwards one reaches the indisputable belief that most workers who go out on unjustified strikes wind up by losing more of their annual income than they get in increased wages.

And, please remember that President Truman went before Congress at the time of the railroad strike two years ago to ask the right to draft striking railway workers into the Army under wartime power. He had his fighting clothes on that day. Actually, he has little excuse to oppose anti-strike legislation, particularly since Democrats joined Republicans in defeating his vetoes of the Taft-Hartley Law.

Any Congressman who is not familiar with the Wagner Act and the Taft-Hartley Act, and the way these laws have been kicked around and denied backing by the White House, ought to resign his place in the councils of the Nation. This may be rather a rash statement, but

FOOD... through the ages..



THE TOOTHPICK, BANNED BY MODERNS, WAS FASHIONABLE AT ROMAN FEASTS. VERY LONG PISTACHIO TWIGGS WERE FAVORED.



THE ETIQUETTE-BOUND CHINESE HOST MUST STUFF CHOICE TIDBITS INTO GUEST'S MOUTH AS PROOF OF HOSPITALITY.

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THE AMERICAN WAY...
By George Peck

SPUD SPOILAGE

On a recent trip to Canada, I took a terrific "ribbing" from our good northern neighbors about our asinine antics with that monarch of the vegetable family—the potato, colloquially known as "spud." They just can't understand why a nation laying just claim to having a corner on most of the world's executive barons can, in the language of Edgar Bergen, "be so stupid."

It seems that before this year of 1948 has come to an end, Canada will have shipped to this country in excess of 7,000,000 bushels of potatoes, while during the same period our government under its price support plan will have purchased in excess of 22,000,000 bushels of potatoes from American potato-growers.

What astounds our good friends to the north is that their Canadian-grown potatoes are being sold in this country at a price less than Uncle Sam is paying the American farmer under the support program. They also find it almost impossible to believe that our government is selling some of our own potatoes for alcohol-making purposes at 9c a bushel, or for 1c to 18c a bushel for animal feed; while the balance is being dumped into ravines to rot and being sprayed with purple ink to render it inedible. They marvel that while all this nonsense is going on, the American housewife is paying \$3.50 a bushel for eating potatoes.

One Canuck rubbed it in with this facetious comment: "It's right neighborly of you folks to dump your surplus potatoes so that you can buy our surplus at a fancy price, but I just don't get it." To this jibe, I was unable to make any reply.

No wonder our Canadian friends can't understand it. For several

months they listened to our bureaucrats and politicians during the recent election campaign, crying to the high heavens about high prices, laying the blame on monopolies and trusts, while our government, itself, is the real culprit, being committed by its own policies and laws, which it approves and enforces, to keep prices high—far higher than they would be if the law of supply and demand was permitted to operate as in the days before the starry-eyed government "planning boys" hatched up their brilliant (?) policy of a "managed economy."

Yes, prices are high, because the government planned them that way. What makes a bad situation even worse is that government now talks out of both sides of its mouth. Out of one side, to the consumer, it voices loud lamentations about the horrors of inflation and the constantly rising cost of living; while out of the other side, to the farmer, it hollers for continuance of the present farm price support program. It makes a new high in the art of "double talk."

But to get back to our potatoes. No one wishes the farmer to take a loss on his potato crop. However,

it is ridiculous that tax dollars are being taken from the entire citizenry to subsidize one particular group—a group which by no stretch of the imagination can be called "underprivileged," and has not been for many years.

We just went through the process of electing a President and Congress pledged to take action regarding high prices. A good place for them to start would be with the potato by putting a stop to the silly procedure of paying tax money to dump domestic potatoes the while we import foreign potatoes. Mrs. Housewife, if you would like to get potatoes back on your table at a price you can afford to pay, I suggest that you clip this article and mail it to your Congressman-elect, adding your own protest against the high cost and wanton waste of SPUD SPOILAGE.

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