

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington. — Although it has been three weeks since the Supreme court of the United States upheld the Wagner labor relations act, I doubt that there is more than a mere handful of people in this nation who are able to comprehend the full significance of those decisions of the highest court. The chances are, if our present form of government remains and we continue to adhere to our Constitution, the full import of the so-called Wagner act decisions (there were five of them) will not be discovered within a quarter of a century.

No decision of the Supreme court in several decades contains the wide range of potentialities found in the decisions of April 12 and it may well be that the findings of the court at that time will constitute a turning point in United States history.

There are so many potentialities to be found in the Wagner act decisions that one may reasonably express a doubt whether states have any rights left. Likewise, one may express a doubt whether labor and the friends of labor have won or lost in the determination by the high court that the National Labor Relations board has power to compel an employer to deal with a majority of his workers, organized into union form. Above and beyond these phases lies another, namely, the question whether the United States congress does not have power to legislate strikes out of existence.

First, I am convinced in reviewing the court's action that there has been a tremendous amount of misinformation spread about the findings of the court. Never in my period of service in Washington have I seen so many different constructions placed upon an official act. We have seen and heard unmeasured criticism of the court for turning business over to the labor unions; we have witnessed a renewal of attacks on the Supreme court because it did not go far enough to the radical side in granting power to congress and the President, and we have been deluged with talk of what can now be done in a legislative way to carry out Mr. Roosevelt's theme song, "The More Abundant Life." The truth is, however, that the Supreme court in deciding the Wagner act cases actually restated in a clarified manner a position the court took twelve years ago. It was in 1925 that the court decided the so-called second Coronado coal mining case. In that opinion, the court laid down the rule, although it was obscured, that obstacles to production constituted an interference with interstate commerce. In the cases this month, the court reaffirmed and restated that very theory of law and government, because it declared in the Jones and Laughlin Steel company case that failure of the employer to permit settlement of the strike through an official agency of the government constituted interference with interstate commerce. Hitherto, the conception of interstate commerce generally has been limited to transportation of goods or communication across state lines.

To show the similarity, it is necessary only to recall that striking miners attempted to close entrances to the Coronado mines in Colorado. The cases went to the Supreme court which held that illegal attempts to close the mines constituted an interference with shipment of the products into interstate commerce. So, I am quite convinced that the job the Supreme court did in this instance and as far as it relates to the orgy of New Deal theories consists only of clarifying the legal definition of interstate commerce. Laymen are not concerned with legal technicalities, nor do they understand them, but they do understand facts and it was facts in the Jones-Laughlin case upon which the court predicated its decision notwithstanding the wild acclaim by New Dealers for the "enlightened" construction of the Constitution in that opinion.

Any attempt to point out what the Wagner act decisions mean and how far they go is bound to lead into a maze of complicated discussion. I have no intention of getting myself so entangled despite the degrees in law that I hold. I am a firm believer in the declaration that human nature works out its problems after the manner of slow and orderly development.

But there are certain circumstances connected with the present court rulings and conditions of this day that may probably be discussed without becoming involved in despised legal technicalities.

I mentioned earlier that if the court, as it did, could find that obstruction of production constituted interference with interstate commerce, it seems quite obvious that interference may come from employees as well as employers. It is a fact, therefore, that when the steel company here concerned refused to obey the mandate of the

National Labor Relations board it prevented a settlement of a strike. It must be a fact, therefore, that a strike of the sit-down type constitutes interference with production and consequently interferes with interstate commerce. The next conclusion, and it seems perfectly obvious, is that if congress can legislate against employer and prevent him from interfering with interstate commerce, it can legislate to prevent the workers from interfering with interstate commerce.

Now, we come to the point, mentioned earlier, of the danger inherent in any situation where congress starts legislating on the question of human rights. Congresses before this time have been fair and congresses hereafter may be fair in enacting legislation dealing with the delicate matter of human rights. But where is the assurance that they will do so? How can we tell but that at some future time a congress subservient to big business may decide to lay down ridiculous rules about employment. It is possible, for example, that some congress may say that employers may not hire workers above fifty years of age. They seem to have that power—if they can make it appear that age becomes important to the maintenance of constant production. I admit this sounds ridiculous. I intended that it should sound ridiculous. It has been mentioned as an extreme case to show what may be possible if these new powers are not wisely used. It exemplifies, moreover, what a factor uncertainty is when too much power has been granted any agency of the government, be it national or state or local.

Now, to touch up on some of the unsettled issues resulting from the court's pronouncement: All that has been obtained under the Wagner act decisions is complete recognition of the right of organized labor groups to bargain collectively free from employer domination. The principle of majority rule is laid down. An employer must deal with the representatives of a majority of his workers. The rights of the minority, whether that minority be a company union or an independent union are rather much overshadowed although they can present their grievances to the National Labor Relations board.

It is in that situation that trouble is foreseen. Most of the recent strikes have resulted from disputes over union recognition. Largely this union recognition question resulted from the maneuverings and agitation by John L. Lewis and his Committee for Industrial Organization. But it is not to be forgotten that the American Federation of Labor has several million members in its craft unions. Thus, it can easily be foreseen that the National Labor Relations board is going to be confronted many times with a fight between the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. Each one of these organizations will claim that it represents a majority of the workers and, therefore, is entitled to be the spokesman for all of an employer's workers.

Most of us have seen how bitter internal labor rows can become. I am sure that most of my readers will recall cases within their own knowledge where carpenters and bricklayers have fought it out over the question of which one was to do certain work in construction. It has happened hundreds of times and each time bitter hatred has developed. When the right to speak for a whole body of employees becomes the question for determination, it seems to me perfectly obvious that the controversy will develop into one of white heat. And the labor board will have to decide which one should serve as the employees' representative. In the meantime, the employer can have nothing to say.

All of this may sound a bit fantastic; it may sound as an attempt to borrow trouble. It is neither. The situation is discussed for the reason that it is quite apparent there will be new attempts in congress now to write legislation controlling hours and wages. Representative Connery of Massachusetts, speaking as chairman of the house labor committee, declared the other day that such legislation would be drafted and he entertained no doubt that it would pass the house. Conditions in the senate are different, but Mr. Connery's opinion must be accepted as worthwhile in so far as the house is concerned.

Thus, if congress undertakes such legislation it is confronted with the necessity of doing something by way of amendment of the Wagner act that will make union labor comply with federal regulation instead of leaving the Wagner act one-sided as it is. In other words, labor is entitled to its dues, to its fair share of profits, but it seems to me it is also entitled to be as subservient to law as those who pay the wages.

NEWS NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST

A Brief Summary of Events of Special Interest to Oregon, Washington and Idaho Communities.

BURLEY, Ida.—Beet growers of Burley, Oakley, Rupert and Paul will receive a total of \$62,125 as their first participating payment for their 1936 crop of beets.

GRANGEVILLE, Ida.—Joseph W. and Louis P. Klapprich, brothers, have sold their 400 acres of wheat land near Cottonwood to Leander J. Wilmhoff for \$30,000.

ROSEBURG, Ore.—Authorization for 10,000 booklets explanatory of the resources of the Umpqua valley has been given jointly by the Douglas county court and the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce.

POMEROY, Wash.—Work will begin soon on the Pataha Creek recreation project, under supervision of forestry officials. The dam contemplated to create an artificial lake will be completed by July 1.

KENNEWICK, Wash.—The city council has renewed an old ordinance calling for dog licenses. Residents have complained that dogs chase cars keep people awake a night, despoil shrubbery, and lawns and scare children.

HAILEY, Ida.—More than 700 deer are reported gathered in the Warm Springs district, north of here. They are following the receding snow line into the higher Sawtooth mountains. The sight has become an attraction for Sunday motorists from the lower country.

GRANTS PASS, Ore.—School boy police proved their effectiveness at the Grants Pass high school one night recently when they apprehended and held for officers two youths seen stealing gasoline from automobiles parked near the school while the occupants were attending a play.

BOISE, Ida.—More and more, according to State Bacteriologist Peterson, the people of Idaho are coming to recognize the importance of tick vaccine to prevent the Rocky Mountain fever. More than three times as many applications for tick vaccine are on file as the department of public welfare has doses.

BEND, Ore.—Efforts to preserve scenic strips of timber along the Santiam and McKenzie highways in the Sisters country, east of the Cascade divide, are now near realization. The secretary of agriculture has approved a proposed exchange of federal stumpage for the roadside trees. The exchange proposal is now in the office of the secretary of interior for final consideration.

SALEM, Ore.—Five hundred men are engaged in digging maple and laurel burls in Oregon and Washington, making this industry one which is attracting considerable attention. J. H. Van Winkle, operating in the Silverton and Jefferson areas, informed state employment officials. The burls, enlarged trunk and root formations, are used in furniture manufacture and are valued at \$25 to \$35 a ton. Most of them are shipped to Los Angeles.

WHEAT CROP UP
BOISE, Ida.—Idaho's winter wheat crop will amount to 12,656,000 bushels, 16 per cent more than a year ago, Richard C. Ross, federal statistician, predicted recently.

The estimate is 8 per cent below the five-year average, he added. Combined stocks of wheat, corn and oats on farms on April 1 were estimated at 4,438,000 bushels, compared with 5,846,000 in 1936.

FARM SURVEY DONE
LA GRANDE, Ore.—A farm survey of farm production in Union county over a period of several years has been completed it was announced by H. C. Avery, county agent.

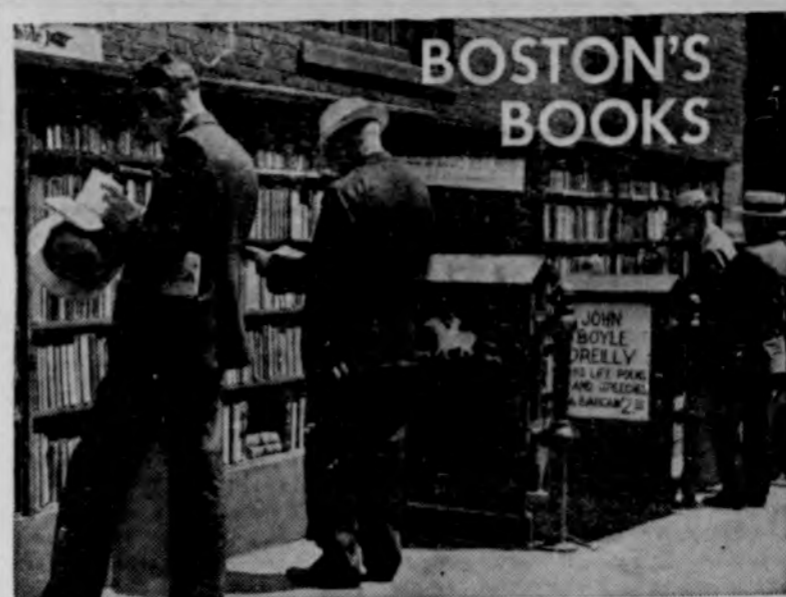
Representatives from the granges, the fruit growers, the livestock industry and the county agents office co-operated with Charles W. Smith and E. R. Jackman of Corvallis in completing the survey.

TEACHERS' PAY SET
OLYMPIA, Wash.—School districts must in good faith endeavor to pay a minimum of \$1200 yearly to all teachers, even though this might in some instances reduce the number of teachers employed, Attorney General Hamilton held.

The opinion was for State Superintendent S. F. Atwood, who asked for an interpretation of the new law providing teachers must be paid at least \$100 monthly, unless the salaries exceed 70 per cent of estimated revenue of the district.

GOODING, Ida.—A total of 24,800 trees have been received from the nursery at the University of Idaho for Gooding county, of which 24,300 are for farmers and 500 are to be planted on the local golf course by the club.

SPOKANE, Wash.—Every adult Indian on the Spokane and Colville reservation will receive \$20 immediately to help with spring crop plantings. Authority for the payment comes from the federal Indian bureau in response to petitions for such aid.



Browsing Among Books an Outdoor Sport in Boston.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

STUDY Boston from the high tower of the customhouse. It looks down on that cobweb maze of narrow, crooked streets which marks the "city limits" of bygone days, when cows grazed on the Common and clipper ships traded with China and Bombay.

In the shadow of modern structures squat many old-style shops and "countinghouses," already weather-beaten when John Hancock was governor. To Boston these are more than obsolete architecture; they are symbols of her busy, audacious youth when she built and sailed our first merchant fleet.

Modern Boston sprawls over more than 1,000 square miles and counts some 2,300,000 people in her metropolitan district. Much of that is in the pattern of other American cities. But the old Boston, so like parts of ancient London, is unique in the United States.

Come down from the tower now and see how certain of these streets are devoted to a particular enterprise. This one smells of hides and leather; along that one you see only the gilded signs of shoe manufacturers. One section smells of fish, another of wool, and here is a wharf fragrant with bananas.

Turn up the hill toward the venerable Transcript, with its columns of genealogy, and you smell newspaper, fresh ink, roasting coffee, and second-hand books stacked in the open air—any book from Gray's "Elegy" to "Anthony Adverse."

Even the odd wording of signboards harks back to earlier days. "Victualers License," "Spa," "Protection Department," not fire department and street-car signs in quaint, stilted English.

Old trades cling to old places. The Old Oyster House, live lobsters wriggling in its window tanks, stands just as it was a hundred years ago.

Aged Carver of Pipes.
Before a window at 30 Court street crowds watch a wrinkled artist carve pipes. At eighty-seven, wearing no glasses, he works as skillfully as when he began, seventy years ago. Monk, Viking, and Indian heads, skulls, lions, dogs—he makes them all.

Give him your picture and he will cut its likeness on a meerschaum bowl. For a Kentucky horseman he carved the image of that rider's favorite mount; he even carved the "Battle of Bunker Hill" with 50 briar figures on one big pipe!

Five workmen in pipe stores hereabouts have a total service of more than 200 years. "A man is on trial until he has been here 25 years" is a favorite joke in one shop.

Quietly another old sculptor works, making "ancient" idols, relics of the Stone Age, even a "petrified man" for a circus in Australia!

Turn back and walk through the cathedral-like First National bank and look at its compelling murals, with their dramatic themes of merchant adventures by land and sea; or study the fascinating exhibit of historic ships' models in the State Street Trust company.

Then talk with men whose families for generations have helped shape Boston's destiny, and you begin to sense what significant events, affecting all America, are packed in her 300 years of history.

Boston cash and engineering skill built several of the great railway systems of America. Chicago stockyards, to a large degree, were built by men from Boston. She founded the great copper-mining industry in our West; she was the early home of many corporations, famous now in the annals of finance, foreign trade, construction, and manufacturing.

It was Boston brains and money that started the great telegraph and telephone systems that now girdle the globe. Miraculously, almost, she turned the jungles of Central America and the Caribbean isles into vast banana plantations, and built up the greatest fruit industry the world knows.

From Boston went groups of thrifty, energetic men to share in the conquest of the West. To Kansas, especially, many colonists were sent by the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid company to circumvent the rise of another slave state under the Kansas-Nebraska act.

Lawrence, Kansas, is named for an old Boston family, and many a budding Midwest factory town drew its first artisans from that national training school for skilled mechanics which is New England.

Descendants of these pioneers form part of the army of 2,000,000 visitors, more or less, who flock back to Boston each season and swarm out to the historic towns about it. They want to see the old places where their ancestors lived, and spots famous in the annals of early days: Bunker Hill monument; Faneuil hall; the site of the Boston Tea Party; Old North church; Paul Revere's house; the tomb of Mother Goose; the site of the Boston Massacre; the sacred codfish in the Statehouse; and near-by Plymouth Rock, Concord, and Lexington, and the Witch House at Salem.

Today Boston prints more books than when she was pre-eminently a "literary center." Manuscripts pour in to her editors. Novels, carloads of dictionaries, and schoolbooks in Spanish and English, Sanskrit and Eskimo, are shipped from here, often to markets as remote as Bagdad.

Great Place for Book Printing.
Her Golden Age of letters, when Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes and Lowell used to frequent the Old Corner Book Store, passed with the rise of New York as a market for manuscripts. But curious visitors still seek out Emerson's old home at Concord; they prowl through the country house of Louisa M. Alcott—admission 25 cents—and drop a tear for "Little Women." For another 25 cents they see the "House of Seven Gables" at Salem.

In American letters Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast," Melville's "Moby Dick" or "Typee," and the brilliant historical work of Prescott, Parkman, Fiske, and Bancroft must long endure, as will other names, from Edward Everett Hale, author of "The Man Without a Country," and Julia Ward Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," to Thoreau and John Boyle O'Reilly.

From Boston still come important magazines for both adults and youths. But it is the stupendous output of textbooks which astonishes.

You can imagine the volume when you stop to think that between 25 and 30 million American children alone are enrolled in schools; that they must have some 70,000,000 books when schools open each September, and that Boston is one of the chief textbook-producing centers in the world.

World Center for Textbooks.
"There are many schoolbooks," said an official of a publishing company, "whose sales make that of a popular novel look diminutive. They are handled not in dozens of boxes, but in carloads of 40,000 pounds each."

"While some of our novels, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and 'Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm,' for example, have sold more than half a million each, our little school pamphlets such as 'Evangeline' and 'The Courtship of Miles Standish' have sold at the rate of a million a year."

"The task of getting sufficient schoolbooks ready to meet the sudden demand every September, when orders come in at the last minute by wire, means that publishers usually begin printing these books as long as ten months ahead."

"Books made in Boston are sent everywhere that English is used in schools," said another publisher. "More than that; in translation, they go to scores of foreign lands. Recently orders came from Bagdad for thousands of our Craig's 'Pathways in Science,' Arabic translations of Breasted's 'Ancient Times' and a number of our other books are used in the schools of Iraq. Not long ago we granted the government of Iraq permission to translate Caldwell and Curtis' 'Introduction to Science' into Arabic."

"You know that the British Isles are a citadel of the classics. We feel gratified, therefore, that our series, 'Latin for Today' is now in wide use in Scotland and England. These volumes are the authorized books in New Zealand and at least one of the states of Australia, besides being much used in South Africa."

"Latin America is today using carloads of Boston textbooks. They are Spanish readers, geographies, arithmetics, hygiene books, algebras, geometries, and others."

"In Ottawa I saw a wall map with tiny flags that marked the sites of Indian schools; many were up within the Arctic Circle. All these schools use our books. This summer we had to hurry one new book through for publication early in August so we might get it to these schools before ice closed navigation to the Far North."

Pleasing Types of Needlework to Do

Add lacy crochet to dainty cross stitch, and what have you? A stunning decoration for your most prized scarfs, towels, pillow cases or whatever! However, either cross stitch or crochet may be used alone, if you wish, and both



are easy as can be, even for "amateurs." What could be more captivating than graceful sprays of full-blown roses, cross-stitched in color, with the border crocheted! In pattern 5751 you will find a transfer pattern of two motifs 3 1/4 by 10 1/2 inches; two motifs 3 1/4 by 7 1/4 inches; a chart and directions for a 3 by 15 1/4 inch crocheted edge; material requirements; illustrations of all stitches used; color suggestions.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle Household Arts Dept., 259 W. Fourteenth St., New York, N. Y. Write plainly pattern number, your name and address.

Do You Have This OLDER YEARS PROBLEM?

Advancing years bring to so many people the constipation problem. And it is so important for older people to meet the matter correctly. Mere partial relief is not enough. For systems clogged with accumulated wastes are bound to result in aches and pains.

Thousands of elderly people have found the real answer to constipation problems in Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets). Nature's Remedy is a purely vegetable laxative. It not only thoroughly cleanses the bowels, but its action is gentle and refreshing — just the way nature intended.

By all means, try Nature's Remedy — 25 tablet box only 25 cents at any drugstore.

Wanting the Moon
He who is too powerful, is still aiming at that degree of power which is unattainable.—Seneca.

"Black Leaf 40"
KILLS INSECTS
ON FLOWERS • FRUITS
VEGETABLES & SHRUBS
Demand original sealed bottles, from your dealer

Fearless Minds
Fearless minds climb soonest into crowns.—Shakespeare.

FOR COLDS
Nature can more quickly expel infection when aided by internal medication of recognized merit

Salicon Tablets
HAVE RECOGNIZED MERIT

WNU-13 17-37

Odd Amusement of Ohio Indian
Of the pastimes of men in Ohio history, the most unique was that of Chief Beaver Hat of Summit county. When he was bored, he would amuse himself by taking out his prized possession—a string of 13 dried white men's tongues—and swig it above his head.

Strange Boys' Names
Boys have odd names on the island of Molokai, where Father Damien, the heroic Belgian priest, ministered to the lepers some 50 years ago. "Sit in the Cold," "A-Fall-From-a-Horse" and "The Emetic" were some of their names.

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB
If they should make us hate as they
Our victory is lost.
A war that's won
By hate I think
Is won at too great
cost.

RTCM