

Political Candidates, Rivals Locked in Fight Over Right-To-Work-Laws

Editor's Note: Following is the first of three dispatches by Raymond Lahr, United Press International political writer, concerning the election year controversy over state right-to-work laws. The dispatch describes the issues and tells how the battle lines have formed.

BY RAYMOND LAHR

Washington (UPI)—Rival political candidates and their supporters are locked in struggle in 10 states over one of the sharpest issues of the 1958 campaign—so-called "right-to-work" laws. The margin by which the voters accept—or reject—such proposals in the Nov. 4 balloting may go a long way in determining whether other states will seek to adopt such laws. An adverse verdict would lend steam to repeal efforts in some states which already have them.

Under particularly sharp watch will be the outcome in Ohio and California, both large industrial states which have seen some of the sharpest political infighting on the issue.

Basically, right-to-work laws forbid union shop and similar labor-management agreements which require employees to belong to unions to hold their jobs. Union leaders contend such agreements are vital to "union security," and bitterly oppose any curbs on them.

They have picked up some allies, including the recently formed National Council for Industrial

Peace, headed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and former Democratic Sen. Herbert Lehman of New York.

THE OTHER SIDE

On the other side are such groups as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Right-To-Work Committee. The latter group included some members and former members of unions. These national groups have counterparts at the state level.

In addition to Ohio and California, voters in Idaho, Kansas, Colorado and Washington state also will decide Nov. 4 whether to adopt such statutes by constitutional amendment or through the initiative procedure.

In three other states—Maryland, New Mexico and Wyoming—the

question of adopting such laws has become an issue in the election of state legislature. In Indiana, the fight is whether the new legislature should repeal a right-to-work law passed last year. Indiana is one of 18 states which have adopted such laws, 10 in the South, five in the Midwest and three in the Western Mountain states. Of these only Indiana rates as a major industrial state.

Voters in all 10 states in which the proposal is an issue have been bombarded with arguments pro and con.

In its recently-published "Union Security, the Case Against the Right-To-Work Laws," the AFL-CIO says the objective of such statutes is "to weaken, cripple and ultimately destroy trade unions."

Proponents describe the laws as a safeguard to individual freedom and as protection against "compulsory" union membership.

All of the 18 laws in effect protect the right to join as well as to refrain from joining unions.

Both sides base their arguments in part on the experience in the states which have adopted the laws.

Thus the National Right-To-Work Committee publishes a table showing that union membership grew 192.1 per cent between 1939 and 1953 in the right-to-work states compared with 187.8 per cent in the other states.

DIRECT REBUTTAL
In direct rebuttal, the AFL-CIO book quotes Professor Frederic Mook of the University of Texas as saying in a study of the Texas law:

"It is virtually impossible to measure the precise effect of these laws on union organization, for no one can know what would have happened if another statutory environment had prevailed."

Meyers' study, published in October, 1955, also said Texas printing industries were not as highly unionized at that time as they were before the war. He added that union growth had been slow in the construction industry and in intrastate and local trucking at a time of rapid unionization in interstate trucking.

The right-to-work committee and the AFL-CIO presented similar figures in different ways in an attempt to show what has happened economically to individuals in various states with right-to-work laws.

The committee says weekly earnings of production workers increased 18.7 per cent in right-to-work states as compared with an average of 17.6 per cent in other states from 1952 to 1956. It says personal income rose 61.2 per cent in such states from 1947 to 1955 against 58.6 for other states.

The AFL-CIO uses dollar figures instead of percentages to support its stand that average weekly earnings and per capita personal income increased less than the national average of 11 of 12 states having right-to-work laws throughout the period, 1947-56.

The first right-to-work laws were adopted in Florida and Arkansas in 1944. The other states where they have been enacted are Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Indiana.

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Judge Graydon G. Withey, Washington, D. C., a member of the United States Tax Court, will conduct this hearing on the 1952 case only.

If it wins the suit, Boeing would recover less than three million dollars after federal excise taxes, a company attorney said.

Similar suits have been filed by other airplane manufacturers. They total 90 million dollars, a government attorney said.

SEATTLE (AP)—A hearing on a 10-million-dollar renegotiation suit involving excess profits for Boeing Airplane Co. opened here Monday.

It is the first of a series of suits in which makers of military aircraft seek reduction of government claims of excess profits.

The government's Renegotiating Board held Boeing made 10 million too much on military contracts in 1952. The company refunded that amount but now contends the board erred.

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Auto Leader Asks Tax Lift

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Dean Chaffin, president of the National Automobile Dealers Association, described the federal excise tax on new automobiles as 10 per cent luxury tax "for a human necessity preceded only by food, clothing and shelter."

Chaffin urged auto dealers and motorists to campaign for removal of the tax as the "quickest and most direct method of reducing the cost of a new car."

He said the tax was imposed to discourage auto buying during wartime and "these conditions do not apply now."

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TO THE VICTOR

PORTLAND, Ind. (UPI)—Portland High School football Coach Glen Bryant walked 21 of the 22 miles from Hartford City home Sunday and rode the last mile on a burro to fulfill a promise to his players when they finished their schedule undefeated Saturday.

Bryant said he'd been pined by sandwiches by local farmers and "had a ball. But I'm sore and stiff all over."

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Three Drown In Tragedy

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A young schoolteacher and two male companions were swept to their death in the churning waters of the Mississippi when their light boat capsized beneath a power dam Sunday.

Another woman, also a teacher, struggled to shore.

"We must have got too close," said Claudia Peterson, 23, the lone survivor.

Drowned were Marlene Voronyak, 23, a teacher in suburban Roseville; Vaughan Uhr, 23, Swen City, Iowa, a student at Bethel College in St. Paul; and Keith Kelsey, 23, St. Paul.

Uhr and Kelsey were unable to keep the boat afloat with paddles after the motor apparently failed and the 17-foot craft began spinning in the eddy under the dam.

The boat overturned and the four occupants were pitched into the water.

"I kept going down and down," Miss Peterson said. "I got to the surface a couple of times but the current kept sucking me to the bottom."

"After that I can't remember much. I must have been carried along by the current after I lost my breath. I came to in the middle of the river and was able to swim to shore."

PNW States Given Permit

SALEM (AP)—The states of Washington and Oregon have been granted a permit by the Army Engineers to build a bridge across the Columbia River, Oregon Highway Engineer W. C. Williams said Saturday.

"That doesn't mean a bridge is going to be built," he said. "It will have to be financed first."

Both legislatures must first decide if they can afford the span, which Williams estimated will cost about 20 million dollars.

The permit approval, Williams said, marks only one preliminary step. He said a joint committee of eight bankers will release findings on the economic feasibility of the bridge in about a month.

Preliminary plans call for a 4-mile span from Astoria, Ore. to Megler, Wash. The permit requires the bridge have a vertical clearance of 198 feet and be built to accommodate a ship channel 1,250 feet wide.

Williams estimated construction, once started, would take two years.

Comic Given Heart Post

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Veteran comedian Jack Benny has been named national chairman of the American Heart Association's "Heart Sunday" drive to collect funds for medical research, it was announced today.

Benny, who has worked with the association since 1949, will direct some 1,500,000 volunteer workers who will solicit contributions in their communities throughout the nation during February, 1959. Heart Sunday has been set for Feb. 22.

On Oct. 26 the comedian will be presented with the "Heart and Torch" award in San Francisco for his efforts in previous fund drives.

Crews Seek Deer Hunters

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Searches resumed in Western Oregon Monday morning for four deer hunters who became lost over the weekend.

Larry Brown and Byron Hodgson, both of Dallas and both in their 20s, became lost in the Black Rock area some 30 miles west of Salem Sunday. A hunting companion, who became separated from them, reported their disappearance.

George Lovell, 28, of Mill City was reported lost in the Gates area in the Upper Cascades. He last was reported seen Saturday.

A 13-year-old youth, Jack Tutum, home address not reported, was lost in the Lake Klickitat area between Toledo and Corvallis Sunday.

Large search parties combed the three areas for the missing persons Sunday. Additional crews were being organized for more intensive searches today.

Youth Flees From Hospital

SALEM (AP)—Larry Molstrom, the 18-year-old Portland high school boy who admitted brutal bludgeon attacks on five women, escaped Sunday night from the state mental hospital at Salem.

He and two other patients cut a hole through a screen door in the receiving ward. The other two are Leeman Street, 20, of Yamhill County; Robert Gilmore, 43, of Norway, Ore. Only Molstrom is considered dangerous.

The youth—a six footer who weighs 190 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes—was charged with assault with intent to kill. Psychiatric tests revealed that he was mentally disturbed and on Sept. 25 he was committed to the mental hospital.

HOOP HITS JAPAN
TOKYO (UPI)—The hula hoop has come to Japan. Twelve ballet school students dipped and gyrated at the Imperial Hotel Saturday in Japan's first demonstration of the new craze which has swept the United States and Europe. An American toymaker introduced the toy for sale in leading department stores.

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