

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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Letters to Editor

Signed letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed if they do not contain comments of a libelous nature or attacks on religious and racial groups.

State PTA Functions Discussed in Letter

Nyssa, Oregon Dec. 9, 1963

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Members of the PTA, too often your elected officers of the state congress and your council correspond only with your local PTA president and communication being what it is, you do not benefit from the thinking of those you have elected to represent you.

State Congress Wants Opinions

A PTA has complete autonomy; you may do anything you want to do as long as it falls within the objects you embrace when you become a member.

The Oregon Congress of Parent-Teacher legislation committee is now seeking your opinion. The congress was charged at the last convention with making a "tax study."

Returns Above Average

The results of this poll must be in the state office by Dec. 16, so that these factors can have considerable bearing upon the subsequent action of our legislation committee.

Another item—if they are to truly represent you, people who represent you at the state convention in April will need your thinking on the national legislation program.

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Grain Millers Member Defends Union Policy Toward Closed Shop

Gate City Journal:

This letter is in response to your editorial page in the Nov. 14 issue of the Gate City Journal regarding human rights. You noted that there are still 30 states that do not have a "right to work law," giving the impression that in your opinion there should be a national "right to work law," totally ignoring the fact that the so-called "right to work law" does not guarantee anyone a job but gives the employer the right to discharge his employees indiscriminately without having to give the discharged employee a reason for being discharged.

It also gives the employer the right to replace union employees with non-union employees, thereby doing away with the necessity of bargaining with his employees and setting wage scales and working conditions that are agreeable to both employer and employee.

Businessmen on Committee

If you take the time to investigate the situation, you will find there are no working people on the National "Right to Work" committee. You will find, however, that some of the officers of this national committee are also officers in the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Chamber of Commerce and National Farm Bureau organizations.

These are the same groups who were instrumental in getting the Taft-Hartley law passed. One section of this law made it mandatory that all plans that were organized by unions would have to hold a secret ballot election and that a majority of eligible employees would have to cast their vote for the union in order to keep the union as their representative in the plant in which they work.

Try to Outlaw Union Shop

Much to the surprise of the above-mentioned groups, the employees voted almost 98 percent to keep the unions. Ever since they lost the elections, these groups have been trying to get the union shop outlawed.

Now as to the other phase of your editorial—"the right to hold a job without joining a union." This applies only in those plants where a secret ballot election was held under supervision of the National Labor Relations board and a majority (in most cases a large majority) of the employees voted to join the union.

Election by majority is basically American and is the way we settle all controversial matters. The AFL-CIO is a democratic organization and no one is barred from joining because of race, color, creed or national origin. In fact the Taft-Hartley law says that the only reason an employee can be kept from joining or be expelled from a labor organization is for failure to pay dues.

Unions' Reasons Discussed

This brings up the basic reason organized labor insists on a union shop, which means that all eligible employees working in an organized plant must belong to the union.

The Taft-Hartley law says that if the union negotiates a wage increase, better working conditions, increased vacations or any other benefits for its members, those benefits shall also be given to the non-union members working in the plant.

These are what union members call shirt-tail riders. They enjoy



Better Read Than Dead

all the benefits of the union members without having to help pay the cost of getting those benefits, which are considerable and must be paid for out of union dues. Non-members do not pay union dues but enjoy all the benefits of the dues-paying member.

Must Pay Many Expenses

Another matter which costs a considerable amount of money is sending delegates to conventions where the policies of the labor movement are set. The only way members of a local union can have a voice in making the policies is by sending delegates to represent them. These delegates must be reimbursed for all wages lost and for all legitimate expenses incurred while attending conventions and all other meetings called by state, national or international officers dealing with problems affecting the union membership.

All salaries of full-time officials (elected by representatives of the local unions) and all legitimate expenses incurred while carrying out the mandates of union members, office space, convention halls, etc., must be paid for out of union dues.

Unions Work for Benefits

The high standard of living the American worker enjoys today, together with the public school system, Social Security, unemployment compensation, injured workers' compensation, just to mention a few of the benefits enjoyed by the American worker, can be laid directly to the efforts of organized labor.

That's why union members feel that all employees working in an organized plant shall join the union and help union members pay the cost of negotiating these benefits.

The crocodile tears that are being shed by members of the "Right to Work committee" for the poor working people are for the sole purpose of brain-washing the public, in the hope they will vote for this so-called "Right to Work law."

The only ones who can possibly benefit by such a law are the unscrupulous employers and the scabs he will be free to hire to replace union members.

FRANK RUSSELL Member of Grain Millers Local 290 Route 2, Parma, Idaho

Yule Program Heard By Methodist Ladies

Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service met Dec. 5 in the church with 15 members in attendance.

"The Power to Become" was theme of an informal program of Christmas hymns, scriptures, comments and discussion presented under leadership of Mrs. Doris Knoedler.

During the business meeting, a report was given on the bazaar and discussion was held regarding additional sessions for children.

Mrs. Guy Sparks, Mrs. Norvelle Robbins and Mrs. Don Sappe served holiday refreshments from a table graced with red candles and a Christmas angel.

VISIT NYSSA PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chard and sons of Boise were Sunday dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Farr. Afternoon callers in the parental home were Mr. and Mrs. Max Jones, Chris and Sue of Ontario.

VISIT SMITHS AT MELBA

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Brammer visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith and girls at Melba. Smith is a former member of the Journal staff.

IT'S YOUR LAW

By Oregon State Bar

Bill of Rights Assures Freedom of Citizens

With Dec. 15 being observed as "Bill of Rights Day" throughout the land, many persons should be thinking about what this important "document" means to them.

The American "Bill of Rights," consisting of the first 10 amendments to our federal constitution, all adopted at one time in 1791, specifies in some detail a number of basic civil rights of the individual citizen. Unaltered by subsequent amendments and jealously guarded by our courts, these privileges must still be respected by our governing bodies today.

Among the most familiar of our constitutional guarantees are those relating to freedom of religion, speech and of the press. The same article protects the rights of peaceable assembly and the privilege of petitioning the government for redress of grievances.

Another amendment secures our persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and specifies that no warrants shall be issued but upon probable cause and unless supported by oath of affirmation.

The due process of law amendment encompasses not one but several guarantees. Every American is secured against being placed twice in legal jeopardy for the same offense, against being compelled to be a witness against himself in a criminal case and against having his private property taken for public use without just compensation.

He is also secured against being held for trial for a capital (death penalty) or other infamous crime, unless upon a presentment or indictment of a

Lutherans Set Outing To Cut Yuletide Trees

Sunday, Dec. 15, is the day selected by Faith Lutheran congregation for their annual Christmas tree hunt, according to Pastor John Milbrath. Worship service will be held at 10 a.m. with no Sunday school planned. Immediately following the service, the group will leave for the Unity area for trees.

Those planning to attend are reminded to wear warm clothing and take lunch for their own family.

grand jury. And, of course, no person may be deprived of life, liberty or property without orderly court procedures, on due process of law.

The right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury, in the locality where the crime was committed, the right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation and the rights to compel attendance of defense witnesses and to have the assistance of defense counsel in all criminal prosecutions are secured by another section of the "Bill of Rights." Excessive bail and fines, and cruel and unusual punishments are prohibited in the Eighth Amendment.

The Tenth Amendment further emphasizes the basic theory by providing: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Thus, that fundamental philosophy expressed in the Declaration of Independence, that men are endowed with certain inalienable rights, and that "to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," has been carried forward into the highest law of our land.

(Oregon lawyers offer this column as a public service.)

GOD'S ACRE SALE

At Adrian Community Church

Saturday, December 14, 1963

\$1 DINNER - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Children Under 12 - 50 Cents)

SALE BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.

4 Turkeys, 4 Hams to Be Given Away



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