

SCHWABE COLL

January 15, 1946

Mr. C. T. Hardeman, President
Hardeman Milling Company
McAlester, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Hardeman:

Your most interesting letter of January 7th has been received in the absence of Congressman Schwabe, who is out of the city for a few days on official business. It will, however, be brought to his attention immediately upon his return to Washington, and you may be sure he will be glad to have the benefit of your ideas and suggestions on the fact finding boards proposed by President Truman, and other labor problems.

Thanking you for your interest in writing, and assuring you that Congressman Schwabe will do all in his power to remedy the present unfortunate situation, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Warren, Secretary

HARDEMAN MILLING COMPANY

FLOUR, FEED & SEED

McALESTER, OKLA.

January 7,
1946.

Hon. Geo. Schwabe,
House Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

Since I wrote you last, the question of unions and strikes is coming to a head, and it now comes a time when Congress will have to act and try to avert an economic crisis in the United States.

You have before you President Truman's Bill #4908 proposing "Fact Finding Boards". I am opposed to this becoming a law, as this Board would be appointed by the President, and paid and probably controlled by the Secretary of Labor. And this Board could rule as to when wages should and could be increased. And I do not think that any one Board should have this much control over the industries of the United States. They state they would want to have control only when there is a national issue. But the War Labor Board functions were to take care of the War Labor contracts, but they soon stepped out and controlled or tried to control all labor relations whether they were war contracts or not.

Some of the unions are demanding increased wages on account of employers ability to pay. These facts present themselves.

(1) Paying excess wages on basis of ability to pay is both discriminatory and prejudicial to one business unit as against another and all business as a whole.

(2) Determination of ability to pay involves an appraisal of all factors of the business as applied to the future. It has little to do with the facts of the past.

(3) Determination of excess wage rates by a political bureaucracy means authority without responsibility.

(4) Determination of capacity to pay involves an appraisal of operating schedules, prices, investment factors, operating expense and all other business questions.

Of course, we have^{come} to the present crisis as all unions have been assisted and cajoled by the Government since 1933. We have had over 10,000 strikes since that date, many of them are jurisdictional, and many of them occur just when the public cannot easily do without the commodity. Such as the strikes that Mr. John L. Lewis pulled during the war.

When this country was established it was recognized by its founders that every individual had certain inalienable rights. When an individual is forced by labor bosses to pay union dues before he can secure a job with which to make a livelihood for himself and family, he no longer has the freedom guaranteed to him under the American Constitution.

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Unions under "closed shop" protection by the Government have a right to strike. And the individual has a constitutional right to quit work and give up his job. But when a worker gives up his job, he severs all connection with the job he has left. He has no right, economic or moral, to interfere in any way with the freedom of his employer in carrying on his business with other employees. In the strike, the employees stop work in a body, but hold onto their job, and punish the employer by closing his shop and keeping it closed. This means that the strikers are permitted by the Government under the "closed shop" to rob employers of their constitutional right to continue a lawful business.

Under the Wagner Act, the employer has all kinds of restrictions and penalties imposed upon him. But the employees seem to have no responsibility whatever, and can strike at any time they want to, for whatever reason they want to, and have no penalties attached to their action. In other words, they can close up any business at any time they want to, and the public be "dammed".

I do not know just what law should be passed or amended, but something will have to be done at once to permit all businesses to operate without having frequent strikes whenever the labor bosses feel like asserting their authority. Many of these bosses have a very shady record, and have very little use for "right". If the unions are permitted to carry out the program they have outlined, we will have severe inflation, and they will lose much more in the long run than they will gain in the additional wages they are asking now. From my personal observation I believe they are being paid fair wages. Many of them average over \$1.00 per hour.

If the unions do increase their wages, I think that Congress should at once raise the guaranteed price to farmers on all commodities, as the farmers will have to pay much more for everything they buy. Of course, if the farmers should go on a strike, and not raise anything for a year, the union members would have a hard time getting something to eat. This would be just as fair, as the unions have no regard for the public welfare. Some action should be taken by Congress to stop concerted action by the unions in one line of work. Even though some members of some unions are well paid, they strike in sympathy with the others. Such strikes are very unfair. Action will have to be taken by Congress to permit private business to continue in control of their business, or we will have a communized, socialistic nation, controlled by political bureaucracies. Our business enterprises have shown they are very superior to any other kind.

CECIL T. HARDEMAN, PRES.

HARDEMAN MILLING COMPANY

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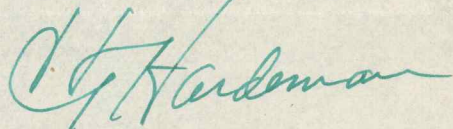
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Hope that Congress will find a way to attend to this at once,
but I do not think that President Truman's plan will cure the
labor ills that we have at this time.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Yours very truly,



C. T. Hardeman,
McAlester, Oklahoma.

CTH:KG