

SCHWABE COLL

Labor

January 15, 1946

Iverson Tool Company
P. O. Box 1439
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Attention: Mr. H. M. Lundquist, Treasurer

Gentlemen:

Your interesting letter of the 9th instant 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 unfortunate labor situation.

Congressman Schwabe is at all times eager to have the views of the people of his District, in order to more truly represent them in Congress. To this end, he recently sent out forty thousand questionnaires addressed to every rural and local post office boxholder in the ten counties of his District, and then made an arduous trip to every county seat and post office in the entire District, in order that all who wished to do so might express their opinions and tell their problems personally to him.

In spite of all this effort, there naturally remain many persons who neither received a questionnaire nor talked with Mr. Schwabe. Hundreds, like yourself, are expressing their ideas by letter; and I am sure that when the Congressman returns he will be much gratified at this evidence of the public spirited attitude of the people of Oklahoma.

Thanking you for your letter, and with assurances that Congressman Schwabe will have your views in mind when considering impending labor legislation, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Warren, Secretary

IVERSON TOOL COMPANY Zone 1

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Jan. 9, 1946

The Honorable George Schwabe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

When you return to Washington you are going to be confronted with numerous labor bills. In my humble opinion labor unions were given more right than the Constitution of our Country rightfully gives them. I believe you will agree with me when I state that the question of free speech is involved. We as employers should have as much right to tell our employees what we think is good for them as some union leader.

If the actual truth could be known there are many people- and I would say a large per cent- who belong to the unions in this country because of the fact that they have been unable to work unless they joined the union and the reason they joined the union was because somebody intimidated them or forced them to join the union or have their heads cracked. That is the situation of the union and the laboring man. It is not in accord with our Constitution and freedom such as this Country stands for. A man could just as well work under a dictator as have to work under some of the union bosses.

This means that the Government should not force closed shops in industry and they did that during the war. It was a pitiful situation to find patriotic people wanting to work for their Government and not being allowed to do so without paying union dues to someone who had no right to them but because of the Government setup this type of labor union racketeering was tolerated. The unions are going to prevent people from working. Those union leaders and men who belong to the union who do not want to work should not be paid unemployment compensation. This prolongs strikes and is wrong in its very inception. If a man doesn't want to work there is no reason for paying him for not working.

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Washington, D. C.

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We believe the labor laws in this Country should be so revised and the Wagner Act amended so that the employer and the employee, labor and management, would both have the same rights under the Constitution and not have a one-sided law like the Wagner Act which is thoroughly one-sided and has been administered even worse.

We now get down to fact-finding boards. If the boards should find that we have plenty of money and therefore would be expected to pay higher wages, do you think that is fair? Now it comes to the industrial wide level of establishing wages. This would be ruinous for the small business man. We may in this Country have many disadvantages but if we are left alone to establish our own rates in our own localities something will be worked out so that manufacturing plants can be kept open in this locality. If they are going to establish the rates in Detroit as a basis for what we pay in Tulsa it would certainly not be right.

I am sure you will all agree that the war has cost us entirely too much because of the tremendous prices that were paid for materials. We had to get the job done and it seemed the only way to do it was to pay high wages to some privileged few and the other men be sent to the army. If we are going to have war in this Country everyone should more or less be mobilized and a man working in the factory producing war material would be on much the same basis as the man who goes to the front and risks his life. This was the pattern outlined after the last war but it went into a pigeon hole and stayed there even though the American Legion recommended full mobilization. With the high wages paid in war industries other industries have suffered and there should be some increase in wages but I can see no reason for the demand of thirty per cent increase in wages by unions whose workers have already enjoyed a very substantial increase in their pay during the war period.

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When you raise wages you have to raise the cost of the goods that the same men buy and in the longrun you are no better off than you were before. One thing you are doing you are bringing the price level on the merchandise that the Americans buy and sell to a higher level than in any other place in the world. This puts us to a great disadvantage when we try to sell our products in world markets. We cannot in this Country keep up a high price level all out of line with other countries without eventually having a depression here to bring about adjustments necessary to restore things to a reasonable level.

This Country has progressed because people have been able to make things cheaper and thereby reduce the price and make it available for more people. If you are going to tie the wage scale to the profits of a corporation you are going to eliminate the possibilities of reduced prices on goods because there will be no margin to work on. If the thing were going to be fair when the company starts to lose money wages should then come down and that is something you know is not going to work, so why use it or even allow a thing of this kind to be passed in Congress as a law. Such a law would be the start of full Government control of business.

An illustration of what industry will do for their laborers if they work is the Lincoln Electric Company case. Their production has gone up and prices come down, labor is well paid, all because there is no union boss to tell them how many pieces should be produced each day. That is one of the worst practices in the union setup. They don't allow a man to make what he can but limits a good man's production to that of the poorest worker. There is no Utopia. The union should have no right to stifle production in a plant like they did during the war and are doing every day in industry. There should be some way to make the unions responsible for acts of this kind. They should also be required to live up to their contracts and although we do have laws

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protecting people from getting their heads knocked in it doesn't seem to apply to unions when there is a strike on. Frankly, I don't understand why some communities, or law enforcement officers elected by the people, fail to protect the citizens who want to work.

Anything you can do to bring about an equitable labor law and restraint of labor unions in some of their unlawful acts will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

IVERSON TOOL COMPANY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. M. Lundquist".

Treasurer

HML:FH