

~~Strikes~~

Labor

February 9, 1946

Mr. George P. Bunn
1112 Johnstone Avenue
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

I have your excellent dissertation of the 5th instant dealing with labor legislation, past and prospective.

Your letter is most inspiring, for it is full of cogent, clear, and for the most part, irrefutable reasoning. Personally, I agree with your ideas and observations. I am a rather rugged individual, with ideas that belong to such people, and which are a part of our very make-up. Hence, I have never been able to assimilate into my thinking any considerable portion of the New Deal philosophies. Most of their theories are basically unsound, and have been used only as expedients and palliatives. They are always trying to appease someone; and in trying so, they apparently hope to lead them into paths of regimentation and regulation of their every activity.

I think the Case Bill which passed the House a few days ago, and for which I voted, is the most forward looking piece of legislation dealing with the labor problem, which has ever been passed by Congress. I consider the Wagner Labor Relations Act responsible for a lot of our ills so seriously affecting the American public today.

The OPA is the most obnoxious of all the bureaus, and its enforcement policies apparently were patterned to a considerable extent after the Gestapo of Germany. Hence, I am positively against further encroachments of state socialism and any form of totalitarianism.

Again I wish to thank you for having sent me your views, and to assure you that they stimulate me in my efforts to continue to fight against this New Deal Philosophy of scarcity and regimentation of our people.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

1112 Johnstone Avenue
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
February 5, 1946

Honorable Geo. B. Schwabe
New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe:

We bungle worse and worse in labor legislation and administration. No representative of the people comes forth with any statesmanlike analysis - not to mention obvious remedies. I believe you desire to be forwardlooking and for the best interests of the country. I am registering with you some of my thoughts concerning labor matters.

We speak of the sacrosanct right of labor to strike and the inviolable privilege of collective bargaining and then permit these concepts to carry us into all sorts of irrelevant and dangerous thinking with respect to the application of these rights. The rights to strike and to bargain collectively should be just that and no more. From this point on, however, our concepts seem to go haywire and we permit strikers to take possession of private property of others; to destroy property after organizing frenzied public demonstrations growing out of so-called peaceful picketing; to prevent property owners from occupying or even visiting or leaving their properties; to prohibit non-organized workers from work even if threat or execution of bodily harm is necessary to effect the prohibition. And then, too, silly legal and moral discriminations appear. It seems all right for steel and oil workers to strike but postal employees, firemen, power plant operators or telephone operators - never. Yet if right for one, it should be right for the other in his pursuit of a living.

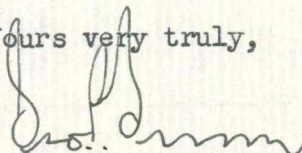
Our labor legislation - or certainly the administration thereof - has been accompanied with the idea that we should authorize irresponsible mobs, invariably composed not alone of striking workers but of other recruits as well, to take administration, as they see it, into their own hands rather than to rely upon established civil agencies as must every other individual or group. With the kind of labor laws we have it cannot be otherwise. I believe the rapid trend to such uncurbed irresponsible group action is the most dangerous undermining influence attacking our form of government and all it means. It may easily be the one single factor responsible for the ultimate debacle of the United States. Laws and administration which permit this or seem to sanction or condone it cannot be right.

Honorable Geo. B. Schwabe
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In the interest of maintaining our democratic form of Government rather than driving the people, often unknowingly, toward a system of divided communism, I urge you to support:

1. Abolishment of the Wagner Act and a new start toward sensible labor protective legislation.
2. Incorporation and responsibility of labor unions for acts and funds.
3. Mandatory filing by any organized group of intent to strike 30 days in advance of strike.
4. Prohibition of occupancy by any striking labor group of any property of the employer or of picketing of any kind in the vicinity of former employment or across or along the approaches thereto.
5. No settlement of labor claims by Governmental agencies on an industry-wide basis and no fact-finding agencies to measure the ability of an employer, without his consent, to pay any wage demanded by labor.
6. No Governmental agency having access to an employer's records, without his consent, in connection with any labor dispute.
7. Enactment of sane and simple laws specifying minimum wages and maximum hours for labor and provision for free appeal to and prosecution through established civil agencies, of any violators.

Yours very truly,



Geo. P. Bunn

B/b