

SCHWABE COLL

~~Business~~  
Labor

May 20, 1946

Lieutenant (J.G.) R. L. Rorschach  
U.S.S. Pickaway (APA-222)

Dear Lieutenant Rorschach:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 16th instant forwarded to me by your father.

I have read it with more than usual interest. First I want to know what the young men are thinking; and believe me, they are writing me daily, giving me their views on the national situation and condemning what is taking place, and offering suggestions for a return to the American system of free enterprise. Many of these letters are along the same line as you have written.

The same is true of many letters I receive from men who have never been in the service. The country seems to be more or less united on the main points you stress in your letter, and I am firmly convinced that it is the will of the people and that it is not the result of mob psychology but the ripe and mature judgment of people who love our country better than any organization to which they belong, and who are genuinely patriotic.

I am delighted to have your views, and assure you that they are helpful to me in my endeavors here; I have already voted for the Case Bill and other measures which have passed the House but have not yet passed the Senate and probably with little chance of passing the Senate and becoming law - for this New Deal crowd in majority here is still lending velvet ears to the labor racketeers.

With all good wishes, I beg to remain,

Your Friend,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:IW



LAW OFFICES  
OF  
HAROLD E. RORSCHACH  
KENNEDY BUILDING  
TULSA 3, OKLAHOMA

May 16, 1946


Hon. George B. Schwabe  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I am enclosing a letter which my son, Robert, requested me to recopy and send on to you.

While I may not agree with everything he says I do feel that it is a good sign when the young folks are willing to think enough about our current problems to want to have something done about them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harold E. Rorschach", written in a cursive style.

HER/  
mh



U.S.S. PICKAWAY (APA-222)

May 16, 1946

Hon. George B. Schwabe  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

The present labor situation is intolerable. The recent work stoppages demonstrate that labor strife is becoming increasingly common and its consequences increasingly disastrous and far reaching. The trusts and monopolies had to be broken up by the force of the law a generation ago and I am convinced that only similar action can curb the group of irresponsible and arrogant labor leaders who today actually hold the economic life of this nation in their hands. I do not propose to accept a situation where one man or group of men can halt the vital processes of the country with impunity.

I want it understood that I have no desire to see the return of the sweatshop. A workingman is entitled to the best in working conditions and a fair return for his labor, and these are fit subjects for collective bargaining by union organizations. There should be a limit, however, to the means permitted labor in enforcing its demands. Now here, I realize, I am treading on sacred ground that has been fought over for decades and supposedly become hallowed by the blood of a thousand martyrs, but I have thought about this a great deal and believe I am right. The strike is no more a legitimate instrument of collective bargaining than war is a legitimate instrument of diplomacy.

I know I shall be called a labor-baiter, reactionary, fascist, or worse for those words, but I am determined to stand by them. If liberalism means acquiescence to the crippling of our country at a time when her full strength is desperately needed, or placing the interests of a labor union before those of 130,000,000 americans, then I intend to be a reactionary and I shall bait labor as long as these evils continue.

Up to this point I have confined myself to criticism of conditions as they are, but I have several concrete suggestions for improving. The main considerations, it seems to me, are to give labor responsibility



for keeping industrial peace, and force it to employ only legal and political means to obtain its ends. These are contained in the following points.

1. All unions should be reorganized under Federal or State charters requiring periodic elections of officers, public membership rolls and public accounting of funds.
2. Unions should be specifically brought under the provisions of the anti-trust laws.
3. Unions should be liable to suits for breach of contract.
4. The income of unions should be taxable.
5. A system of labor tribunals leading up to the Supreme Court of the United States should be established to which both labor and management would bring their grievances and be assured of an impartial hearing and decision. Such arbitration should be compulsory and the decisions binding on all parties, violation being punished by fine and imprisonment. Defiance by corporations or unions would be combatted by seizure of assets and funds.
6. In return for giving up the strike as a weapon, any union winning a plant election should automatically be guaranteed maintenance of membership, the check-off and a closed shop.
7. Management should retain control over personnel with regard to hiring, firing and promotion.
8. An Inspection Board should be established which would continuously investigate conditions, and bring to light for correction any abuses such as "featherbedding", speed-ups or slow-downs, or any other restrictive acts on the part of either management or labor.

I don't claim that my ideas cannot be improved and I do not expect that they will be adopted quickly. Something similar to them must be arrived at, however, if our country is to recover its full industrial vigor. I welcome criticism and hope only that I have aroused a thought in someone else's mind.

Sincerely,

R. L. RORSCHACH,  
LT. (j.g.) USNR