

Schwabe - COLL

~~Miss~~

Labor

July 9, 1946

Mr. D. M. Clause
235 North 2nd Street
Vinita, Oklahoma

Dear Friend:

I have your letter of July 4th, which I have read with much interest. I certainly enjoyed your telling me your ideas of the coal strikes, John L. Lewis and giving me your ideas upon some of the important issues of the hour.

You say you are just a boy of 799 years. I hope I am as good at that age as you appear to be. It is wonderful that one can write his congressman like you have. I am happy that you seemed to enjoy writing me.

You may not realize it, but I receive scores of letters. Some days I get several hundred, and they give me the benefit of the thinking of the people in my District, and enable me to better serve them and the people of the country as a whole.

I think Congress will be in session for another month or so, then we shall adjourn for a while. Perhaps until after the campaign is over. I would love to have a visit with you after I get back home this summer and let you tell me some of your ideas.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:vwd

Vinita Okla July the 4-1946

I am a Democrat tho I maintain
every thing you slur - and said I
Wsto be long to the coal miner Union
Thy call a strike that unrollw for march
the strike with mine, said the author
to surfer. I quit this site than turn

him a gangst Old Louis car and
I admit there are 2 of the almost
cut compare letter I ever saw
no mud slinging a toll With best
wishes for you, I remain your

Wm Blaine 235-Or 2 Street Vinita Okla.
Meet my old friend
Bright Patron of
Texas

Louis gaining Boy of 7'9-

(Not printed at Government expense)

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Begin Again

SPEECH

OF

HON. GEORGE B. SCHWABE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 1946

Mr. SCHWABE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, is anybody satisfied with the way in which labor-union bosses and racketeers have been performing during the last few years? Have the strikes benefited the country? Did anybody, except the bosses and the racketeers, benefit from the steel strike, the General Motors strike, the coal strikes, the railroad strike, and the almost innumerable other strikes in the past few years? It has long been conceded that the bosses and the racketeers are the chief benefactors of a strike and that perhaps there would not be many strikes if it did not materially help and make money for the union bosses and labor racketeers.

Certainly strikes, work stoppages, slowdowns, and lock-outs do not help the economy of the people. Generally, the public suffers tremendously from these eruptions. Our entire equilibrium is upset.

The rank and file of labor usually lose time and money while the strike is in progress, and their families are deprived of the necessities of life pending the settlement of the differences between management and labor. These losses in wages frequently are not overcome by increased payments for many months and sometimes the injury cannot be repaired.

The employers, frequently referred to as management, have their incomes and profits cut materially and their operations disorganized. Consequently, the public suffers from loss of income taxes which otherwise would have been paid on profits and the public suffers in many ways as a result of discontinuance of operations and production.

The Roosevelt and Truman administrations, covering the past 13 years, have been characterized by a catering to the labor racketeers and union bosses. The New Deal administration has passed many laws favorable to these racketeers and bosses, with slight preference, in some instances, to the laborer. It has been a policy of appeasement, designed to get votes and perpetuate the New Deal in power.

Something is radically wrong. Everyone will admit that. Labor and management are confused beyond words. The people are infuriated and mad. Production has been slowed down, reconversion has been stifled and crippled on every hand. Industry is hamstrung and does not know which way to turn. The public demands relief, and is entitled to it.

Many blame the operations of the National Labor Relations Act passed in 1935. Senator WAGNER said in 1935 that:

The enactment of this measure will clarify the industrial atmosphere and reduce the likelihood of another conflagration of strife.

Eleven years later, we are now experiencing the bitterest labor strife in history.

Senator WAGNER further stated 11 years ago that:

There is not a scintilla of truth in the propaganda that this bill will create a labor dictatorship.

Now a few labor bosses are dictating to industry, to the Government, and to 130,000,000 American citizens. John L. Lewis was successful in accomplishing practically everything for which he precipitated the coal strike. Another labor boss denounced the President and Congress, stating that his union has \$47,000,000 in its treasury, and definitely said that \$2,500,000 would be used this year against the reelection of the Members of Congress who refused to take orders from these labor dictators.

Senator WAGNER, speaking further in 1935, of the National Labor Relations Act, said:

This bill is designed to promote industrial peace.

Apparently it has had the opposite effect. The recent railroad strike, the strike of the coal miners and others which paralyzed our communication systems and threatened our whole economic structure, are examples. The public is in a dreadful state of suspense, fearful of what may happen as a result of the Communist promoted international maritime strike and many other strikes that are scheduled.

Let us see what the Wagner Act has done. During the past 11 years there have been more than 37,000 work stoppages—three times as many as there were the 11 years before the passage of the act by Congress in 1935. The number of workers involved in the work stoppages for the past 11 years is almost 17,000,000, again approximately three times the number for a like period before the passage of this act. Hence, roughly speaking, there have been three times as many idle, time wasted, and production lost since, as compared with a similar period before the Wagner Act—National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935.

Consider these facts: In January 1946 there were 325 new work stoppages, with a carry-over of 175 strikes from the month before, both together involving 1,750,000 workers, and 19,200,000 man-days lost. In February 1946, 260 new work stoppages were added to the 200 carried over from January, involving 1,450,000 workers and 21,500,000 man-days lost. In March 1946, 385 new stoppages were added, with a carry-over of 270 from February. Strike notices have increased until now more than 1,000 per month are filed, with current loss in production of 100,000,000 man-hours monthly.

All of this has led many of our best thinking people, who do not want to clear

everything through Sidney, or some other union boss, to reason that the Wagner Act and other labor partiality measures passed by Congress during the past 11 or 12 years have resulted in restraint of trade, unemployment, increased prices to consumers, contempt of law and authority, corrupt elections, dictation to government, denial of a citizen's right to work, and undermining the foundations of the freedom of labor itself. Many have suggested that these ills can be cured by rewriting or amendment of the Wagner Act in several important respects, which will result in placing organized labor and labor management under laws similar to those which regulate and control management, and that these changes are essential to the proper safeguarding of the interests of the people and of labor itself.

There are others who demand that all of this New Deal labor legislation, socialistic and communistic in many of its aspects, be repealed and that new laws be enacted which will hold organized labor equally responsible with industry, and where the rights of the public are considered of paramount and first importance. They say we should begin again and legislate from the foundation, upon equitable principles, demanding fair treatment of labor and management. Each has its function to perform. Each should be restrained from infringing upon the rights of the other. American labor has enjoyed the highest standard of living of any labor in the world. This has always been true, it should always be true. No one should want the standard of living reduced in America. But, if conditions continue, and if the public is forced to suffer as a result of the arrogance of labor bosses and racketeers, the time will surely come when the pendulum will swing in the opposite direction, and labor will suffer most. In the meantime the racketeers may have garnered immense fortunes, but the rank and file of labor will have its standard of living reduced and its gains will be discarded with the dictatorial powers, which should not have been granted. The frenzied public often resorts to extreme measures. One extreme usually begets another, the public will not continue to tolerate the outrageous treatment to which it has been subjected during the past 11 years. The public is not in a frame of mind to be further ignored. The appeasement policy of the New Deal was born of expediency, which is based upon the theory that might makes right. Mob psychology is in danger of asserting itself to the detriment of all concerned. It is never safe to follow the mob, but history is replete with instances of where the people grow impatient, and are no longer tolerant of those who occupy high places. Hence, in many quarters the people are demanding the repeal of existing laws, or at least the amendment of these laws, to permit free enterprise and free public enjoyment of American principles in this country.