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Vote Apr. 22... and Vote For Glenn R. Davis

For 2nd District Congressman

Petty Pair of Feeble Gestures

Understandably, members of the legislature become angered when newspapers print unflattering stories about them. Their irritation is particularly justified when those stories happen to be unfair, untrue, and obviously motivated by politics.

This desire to retaliate has led to introduction of two bills in the 1947 legislature. One (438-A) was introduced by the assembly committee on taxation "by request" of an anonymous person.



Our Town News of Your Neighbors

Gathered by The State Journal Staff

Edited by Russell B. Pyre

The first bill would create a standing committee of six legislators plus the attorney general. The committee "upon its own motion, or upon complaint of at least 10 members of the legislature, may summon before it any member, representative, or editor of the press or broadcaster or owner of any radio station who makes, publishes, or broadcasts any statements changing or implying directly or indirectly that moneys have been or are being made available to influence legislation by bribing any member or members of the legislature or otherwise in connection with the consideration or disposition of any subject of legislation or of being the recipient of unlawful lobbying expenditures..."

The second bill would provide a \$100 to \$5,000 fine or a one to five-year prison term for those who "by editorial, news story, cartoon, radio broadcast or otherwise falsely state or impugn, directly or by implication, the position of a member of the legislature on any subject of legislation..."

The first measure, providing for the legislative committee of inquiry, apparently is meant to scare the daylight out of newspaper reporters, who, presumably, in the future will be too terrified to suggest that money is being spent to influence legislation or that "unlawful lobbying expenditures" are being made.

Drastic fines and prison terms provided in the second bill for writers who falsely state the position of lawmakers on legislation likewise is a rather silly approach to the problem. If any senator or assemblyman is libeled by a newspaper or radio broadcaster, he can sue for damages—and collect—under present laws and court precedent.

As for falsely stating the position of a lawmaker on any piece of legislation—we recall the incident during the past few days where five legislators were recorded on roll calls on both sides of a highly-controversial bill. In a case like that, the reporters presumably should hold a private caucus with the lawmakers so they can make up their minds?

There is no question but that certain newspapers, with highly-political intent, flirt with libel suits by printing rumor stories about office-holders of opposite political faith. But if any single lawmaker considers that he has been libelled or that his reputation is tarnished because of such stories, he now can sue those newspapers. It is senseless to react to such commercialized rumor-mongering by introducing bills like this pair.

A few members of the legislature, too, might try holding their tongues for a change. When they glibly "shoot off their mouths" about legislative opponents on certain bills, they reflect upon the dignity and integrity of the entire legislative body. Yet, when they see their statements in print, they scream that they have been crucified!

When Jim Brophy and family visit their in-laws, the Virtel Dyers, on the Dyer farm between Blue River and Bos-cobel, they usually bring home a supply of Plymouth Rock eggs.

They made such a visit shortly before Easter Sunday, during which Kay Ellen, the 6-year-old Brophy daughter, absented herself from the farmhouse for quite a spell. When she returned, her aunt asked where she had been.

"I've been out talking to the chickens," said Kay Ellen.

"Talking to the chickens?" exclaimed Mrs. Dyer. "And what did you say to them?"

"Well," answered Kay Ellen, "I told that old gray hen plenty!"

Reasonable Labor Legislation Urged

Childs Fears Dangers In Taft's Omnibus Bill

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON — TWO NATIONWIDE strikes are in progress as the senate labor committee sits down to try to agree on legislation that will bring peace in industry.

The coal miners and the telephone workers are out, and there are angry rumblings that indicate trouble in other sectors.

This is a convenient background for those in the senate and the house who want to go all the way and put organized labor into a legal squirrel-cage. It follows a long period in which strikes were at a minimum.

Within the senate committee there is a sharp controversy over the kind of bill to be finally reported to the senate. Chairman Robert A. Taft favors an omnibus bill that, as one senator put it, would contain everything including the kitchen sink.

A FACTION IN THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTED by Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon and Sen. Lister Hill of Alabama believes that separate proposals covering separate phases of labor legislation should be put into separate bills. This would make it possible, Morse has argued in closed committee session, to get agreement on a minimum of legislation intended to correct the worst abuses of labor's recently acquired power.

There is just a possibility that a majority of the committee may in the end take this line and insist on separate bills.

But even if this should be the outcome, it will have no bearing on the action the senate will take. When the senate gets down to business and resolves itself into a committee of the whole to adopt labor legislation, Taft will have the votes to put over his catch-all containing a long series of restrictions.

The draft of the committee is now considering limits industry-wide bargaining. It outlaws the closed shop and limits the union shop. It excludes foremen from collective bargaining. At the same time, of course, it corrects the inequities in the Wagner labor relations act and outlaws jurisdictional strikes and the secondary boycott, changes which Morse and the other moderates on the committee approve.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK HARD to see the politics behind Taft's maneuver. If the catch-all bill goes to the White House, Pres. Truman can be expected to veto it. It will contain prohibitions that go much further than he cares to go. The president does not have the privilege of vetoing separate items in any measure. He must approve the whole thing or send it back to congress without his approval. It is highly doubtful if there would be sufficient votes to pass the catch-all bill over a veto.

Under such a course, the strong likelihood is that no labor legislation will come out of this congress. Republicans will be able to put the blame on Mr. Truman. They can argue in the 1948 campaign that the only way to get adequate labor legislation is to put a Republican president in the White House to work with a Republican congress. You can hear the political orators go to town on that argument.

IF THAT IS INDEED THE STRATEGY behind the omnibus bill, it is a reckless one. Most people, probably even most members of unions, are for reasonable restrictions that would end the abuses which jeopardize the whole collective bargaining system. Failure by this congress to enact any labor legislation would produce a sense of frustration and helplessness. It would encourage irresponsible union leaders to further abuses. Next year, an election year, will be the senate labor committee. Taft has argued that all the restrictions contained in the omnibus bill are essential to labor peace. Only through an omnibus bill will it be possible to write the full ticket, he insists.

BUT THE SUSPICION OF POLITICS will not down this. This interval when authority is divided between a president of one party and a congress of another party, with a presidential election coming up, has traditionally been given over to playing politics with legislation. It has been the occasion for a kind of chess game in which you seek to box your opponent and thereby make political capital for the coming contest.

We need reasonable labor legislation. We need legislation that will be accepted and that can therefore be enforced. This is hardly the moment in history to play politics with industrial peace.

A "letter home" this week from Mrs. M. C. Baker, Green Bay, formerly June Reif of Madison, described the annual recurrence of an interesting phenomenon.

The swans, she wrote, "are here in thousands," and the noise made by arriving flocks are almost constantly in the ears of Green Bay residents.

"Green Bay," she explained, "is the only place in the world where you ever see so many swans all together."

Mrs. Baker learned quite a lot of swan lore last week when she and her husband, also a former Madisonian, son of the late Clarence M. Baker, sanitary engineer, saw movies at a sportsmen's show, depicting the bird migration.

Every spring the swans fly to Green Bay, non-stop, from the Atlantic seaboard, remain there to feed about a month, then continue on north to the Arctic Circle to breed.

Again in the fall, often from nesting places as far distant as Siberia, they fly non-stop to Green Bay en route to winter quarters.

At the time of Mrs. Baker's letter, the birds had been coming in for about a week.

Mexico Makes Costly Coins

High Silver Content Expected to Help Price

By WILLIAM J. WRIGHT, JR.

MEXICO CITY—Mexico is producing the most expensive silver money in the world, according to officials of the finance ministry.

Beginning next August, all bank issues of silver pesos with a metallic value of 83 centavos in exchange for the paper notes now in circulation. This is more than twice the silver value of previous metal peso issues, and 25 per cent more proportionately than the value of the silver contained in United States coinage. Half the weight of the new one-peso coins, or seven grams, will consist of pure silver.

The government's decision to retire 1 and 5-peso notes in favor of silver currency, and to introduce 50-centavo coins, has the primary purpose of creating public confidence in the national money.

At some later date 5-peso coins, roughly equivalent in value to the United States dollar, will be issued in return for the 5-peso bills now in circulation. These will contain the same high proportion of silver and carry the image of Guatemala, son of Montezuma and last Aztec emperor.

While the United States dollar includes 22 grams of pure silver, the Guatemalan issue will contain 30 grams. Moreover, the finance ministry sees an additional advantage in being able to issue an unlimited quantity of the new coinage and bolster the world price of the metal by absorbing a good slice of Mexico's production domestically.

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Tonight's Aces

High Silver Content Expected to Help Price

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YESTERDAYS

(25 Years Ago . . . Apr. 12, 1922)

R. B. Dudgeon, superintendent of Madison's public schools for 30 years, died today at the age of 69.

Great Britain has informed the state department that she is ready to begin immediate negotiations looking toward the refunding of the \$11,000,000 allied debts to the United States.

(15 Years Ago . . . Apr. 12, 1932)

Wheat prices swept to new highs of more than a month today.

A daughter was born yesterday at the Methodist hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Macintyre of Shorewood Hills.

(10 Years Ago . . . Apr. 12, 1937)

The supreme court upheld the general constitutionality of the Wagner labor relations act today in a series of vital opinions which appeared to broaden traditional interpretations of the Constitution's interstate commerce clause.

Mrs. Harry L. Mosely has been named head of the Madison Civics club.

You Have to Be Quick

One of Ilka Chase's most famous lines was not read on the stage. Some time after her divorce from Louis Calhern, she came across a box of engraved cards bearing only the name "Mrs. Louis Calhern."

Feeling it would be a shame to let the cards go to waste, she wrapped them up and sent them to Julia Hoyt, the new Mrs. Calhern, with the little note, "Dear Julia, I hope these reach you in time."—Coronet.

Fearing Spoilage, Grainmen Appeal Again for Boxcars

MINNEAPOLIS — (U.P.) — Appeals for more boxcars to market an estimated 30,000,000 bushels of grain now stored on Northwest farms were voiced again Friday by Minneapolis grainmen.

Corn elevators in Minnesota and the Dakotas were reported still jammed with grain, while other thousands of bushels of corn were reaching the dangerous germinating period, still unable to be moved to market. Corn germinating period usually starts about April 15.

Although the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Sault Ste Marie railroads serving North Dakota, where the situation is most critical, have promised a return of at least 80 per cent of their cars by May 1, the grainmen are appealing for more.

Edmund B. Townsend, executive vice-president of the Minneapolis Traffic assn., made the appeal to Carroll Miller, division chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The grainmen fear a renewed national fight for boxcars with an estimated 32 per cent increase in railings for the second quarter, as well as the annual movement of the Southwest's winter wheat harvest scheduled to start about May 15.

McCoy Readies Caretaker Setups

SPARTA — (U.P.) — Camp McCoy officials today laid plans for a 350-man caretaker detachment at the state's largest military post, being readied for deactivation soon.

Lieut. Col. Oliver Schantz, commander of the post, said the deactivation was scheduled for June 30. Despite the absence of official word as to the disposition of the national guard and ROTC summer training camp program here, the officer said he believed they would not be affected.

Staff officials were also making recommendations for additional personnel, excluding caretakers, to be needed for the summer training schedule. Schantz said he would make his recommendations to Fifth army headquarters next week.

Better Half Is Better Than Bitter Half Hour

CHICAGO — (U.P.) — Thirty minutes in jail convinced Harry Arand, 50, he would rather spend the rest of his life with his wife.

His wife, Mabel, told Superior Court Judge George M. Fisher she would rather have her husband back than the \$75 he owed her in support allowances.

The judge told Arand to go back to his wife or to jail.

Arand went to jail. Half an hour later, he sent word that he had changed his mind.

Mr. and Mrs. left the courtroom arm in arm.

Extradition Hearing in Holdup Case Set

An extradition hearing for Robert Massengill and Mack Barnes, charged with the holdup of the Madison Drug Co. here Jan. 28, will be held before Texas Gov. Buford H. Jester Tuesday.

Detective Bennett Nason, informant Inspector H. J. Morris Friday.

Truman, Indians Discuss Problems

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — Pres. Truman devoted part of his official day Friday to discussing problems facing the remnants of the original American citizens, the Indians.

He met first with a delegation representing the Omaha, Ponca, Santee, Sioux, and Winnebago tribes of Nebraska.

Later he held his first conference with the new Indian claims commission, sworn in Thursday. The members are Edgar E. Wit, chairman, William M. Holt and Louis J. O'Marr.

Amos Lumsden, member of the Omaha tribe at Macy, Neb., noted as spokesman for the group of Indians, who wore native blankets and feather headresses.

The Indian delegation was accompanied by Rep. Karl Stefan, (R-Neb.).

The Indians are here to participate in the annual cherry blossom festival and United Nations tabouca this week end, and to testify before congressional committees.

Home Economics Assn. Meets in Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE — (U.P.) — The second annual spring session of the Wisconsin Home Economics assn. began today.

Speakers on the two-day program included Dr. Dorothy Hussemann, associate professor in home economics, University of Wisconsin; Lester M. Emans, director of elementary education, Eau Claire State Teachers' college; Gerald Rasmussen, head of related art, Stout Institute, and Mrs. Katherine M. Alderman, Minneapolis, Minn. Mrs. Alderman is president of the American Home Economics assn.

Officers of the Wisconsin association are Frances Margaret Teascher, Racine; Pres. Frances Zuill, Madison, and Ruth Jones, Secretary, and Glee Hemingway, treasurer.

NEWS BROADCASTS

SUNDAY 1:00 WISN 1:00 WISN 1:00 WISN 1:00 WISN 1:00 WISN