

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

G. M. F.:

The strike situation ^{was} ~~is~~ ~~steadily~~
~~growing~~ ~~more~~ by the hour.

Under wartime authority, the
gov't is seizing meat packing plants
tomorrow - But what good is that going
to do unless the penalties of the law
are enforced. The 193,000 C.I.O. packing
house workers, or rather their leader, has
said that they will not go back
to work ~~unless~~ ~~then~~ for the gov't -
unless the gov't gives them their wage
increase they ask.

^{Now} The harm by which the gov't is
taking over operation of the Packing
houses, or seizing them, was enacted
by congress as a wartime measure -
to be used in ~~an~~ extreme situations
to guarantee continued production. It
was based on the idea that ~~in~~ ~~an~~ ~~extreme~~
war could be forced to work for
their gov't + country just the same
as they could be forced to ~~work~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~gov't~~
~~work~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~gov't~~ - It was thought that ~~the~~
men could be compelled to work for
the gov't when they could not be
forced to work for another man or a private
(over)

industry. When congress undertakes
to make one man work for
another ~~when he goes~~ against his
will it runs smack up against
~~the~~ constitution. But ^{working for the govt is a different thing} ~~the~~ man
can be compelled to work for
the country's ~~govt~~ by the same
~~power of govt~~ that drafts men to
serve and fight in the military services.
Former Pres. Roosevelt once said "You can't strike against your govt."
To make this law effective, Congress
put into the law penalties - making it
against the law to strike or interfere
or in any way to interrupt production
in a govt. seized plant. So, if the
govt wants to enforce the law
every striker or picket interfering
with or contributing to the interruption
of production of the packing house
after govt seizure can be arrested,
imprisoned and fined. Will this
law be enforced? My guess is
no. One ^{big} trouble with our situation
is lack of law enforcement. For instance,
it is just as much against the
law for one man to hit another
with a brick bat in ^{one state} ~~place~~ ^{as another} as
Assault and battery is ^{no less a} crime on
the picket line than on a farm or
the ^{small} ~~small~~ town in Tennessee or in any other
state - Nevertheless, force and violence
is customarily used by ^{strike} pickets to keep

men from going back to work
and in some cases to prevent the
owners of ~~the~~ a plant from getting
into their own property. ~~Also~~
it is against the law for you
to sit down in my house and
prevent me from coming in
whether it be my home or
my business - and this is just
contrary to law in Detroit as it
is in Cadiz, Ky, but ~~was~~ the
law enforced against Detroit
sit down strikers - ~~It~~
was not. I'm not just talking
about the federal govt, either. It
is the job of state and local
authorities to protect ^{its} citizens
against force and violence.

In the case of ~~meat~~ packing
house strikers, though, ~~it~~ ~~the~~ it
is a federal law that is being
violated. The nation must have
meat - so there is but one
alternative to law enforcement -
~~giving strikers the higher wages.~~
If the govt orders ^{the} wage increases
under govt operation, it will
give a powerful incentive to
all strikers to force govt seizure
of plants and govt fixing of
wage raises. This is something
Pruitt has said we must avoid.
The Pres also made a significant remark
during the week when he said that both
labor and industry have too much power
and that the govt must exert the power of
the people. The pres was immensely right. Both

LIST OF PORTS OF ENTRY IN THE PAST OF SHIP
- USS GENERAL HARRY TAYLOR -

<u>PORT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Portland, Oregon	8 May 1944
San Francisco, California	16 May 1944
San Diego, California	27 May 1944
San Francisco, California	13 Jun 1944
Milne Bay, New Guinea	12 Jul 1944
Renard Sound, Russell Islands	17 Jul 1944
Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (Kukum Dock)	18 Jul 1944
Guadalcanal (Berth 21, Tenaru)	18 Jul 1944
San Francisco, California	3 Aug 1944
Pearl Harbor, T.H.	16 Aug 1944
San Francisco, California	23 Aug 1944
San Diego, California	9 Sep 1944
Pavuvu Island, Russell Islands	27 Sep 1944
Sun Light Channel, Russell Islands	30 Sep 1944
Point Curz Dock, Guadalcanal	1 Oct 1944
San Francisco, California	16 Oct 1944
Great Roads, Noumea, New Caledonia	22 Nov 1944
Guadalcanal (Kukum Dock)	26 Nov 1944
Finschhafen, Landemak Bay, New Guinea	1 Dec 1944
Oro Bay, New Guinea	2 Dec 1944
Aitape Roads, New Guinea	5 Dec 1944
Humbolt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea	7 Dec 1944
Morotai, Island	12 Dec 1944
Humbolt Bay, Hollandia, New Guinea	15 Dec 1944
Landemak Bay, New Guinea	22 Dec 1944
San Francisco, California	8 Jan 1945
Port Huoneme, California	11 Feb 1945
San Diego, California	14 Feb 1945
Pearl Harbor, T.H.	21 Feb 1945
Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands.	7 Mar 1945
Port Apra, Guam	18 Mar 1945
Saipan Harbor, Marianas Islands	22 Mar 1945
Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands	29 Mar 1945
Espiritu Santo Harbor, New Hebrides Islands	2 Apr 1945
Noumea, New Caledonia	4 Apr 1945
Pearl Harbor, T.H.	14 Apr 1945
San Francisco, California	21 Apr 1945
Point Richmond, California	22 Apr 1945
Oakland, California	28 Apr 1945
San Francisco, California	2 May 1945
Kossol Roads, Palau Islands	24 May 1945
Manila, Philippine Islands	27 May 1945
Leyte Gulf, Philippine Islands	4 Jun 1945
Honolulu Harbor, T.H.	20 Jun 1945
San Francisco, California	26 Jun 1945
Balboa Harbor, Panama Canal Zone	8 Jul 1945
Passing through Panama Canal	9 Jul 1945
Staten Island, New York City, N.Y.	15 Jul 1945
Marseilles, France	5 Aug 1945
Pier 88, Manhattan, New York City, N.Y.	18 Aug 1945
Marseilles, France	2 Sep 1945

Indians & Eskimo do the heavy work of the people must be organized. When in the power of the people? When passing of power by the people up to enforcement of law by the executive officials. etc.

PORT

DATE

~~WSM, January 27, 1946~~

~~Good Morning, Friends:~~

We should never forget that government by law is, in the long run, the only fair and just and safe manner of government by the people, of the people and for the people. Unless just laws, justly enforced, provide the answer to our domestic problems then our ~~basic~~ system of government would be doomed.

that disastrous partner of war
~~The danger of~~ Inflation is ^a more real and acute ^{danger} now than at any time during the war. It will be recalled that we had much more inflation after World War I than during the war. *for more than ten years after armistice day the bubble grew bigger and bigger until they began to burst in 1929.* We have an even more explosive situation now in that because the war lasted longer, there is a greater shortage of commodities and because of the enormous pent-up savings, there is a great deal more demand and pressure of money to spend.

President Truman has now to make a very fundamental and vastly important decision. He is being urged to adopt the policy of granting price increases wherever necessary to take care of wage increases. Perhaps it would be well to go a little into the background of this decision.

At the beginning of the war, efforts were made to control prices without controlling wages. This effort proved abortive and finally the government instituted control over wage increases. The Little Steel Formula became the yard-stick. Though this yard-stick may have sometimes been applied weakly and flexibly, and though wage increases may have been winked at by government officials, the fact remains that no wage increase could be given without governmental approval. Even with its acknowledged weakness, this was direct wage control and except in the case of John L. Lewis' successful efforts to break the line, was reasonably successful.

Soon after the surrender of Japan, President Truman lifted direct wage control with the announced policy that all wage increases would be permitted if they could be made within the existing price structure. The fly in the ointment was that there

was no official arbiter to say just what wage would come within the existing price structure. As a consequence, labor has undertaken to write their own ticket and to put their own estimate upon what wage can be paid by various industries. This is why we have heard so much about "ability to pay."

The lifting of direct wage controls has, in my opinion, had a lot to do with ~~price~~ bringing us to the disastrous industrial strife now prevalent. Mr. Chester Bowles and his OPS have rather rigidly held the line against price increases. This line can not be held, however, if wide-spread wage increases are granted. It has been demonstrated time and again that a price can not be controlled unless the component parts that make up the price are likewise controlled. Mr. Bowles is resisting to the last ditch the adoption of a policy that price ceilings will be lifted to ~~take~~ take care of wage increases. Other of the President's advisors are compromising ^{and} and inflationists and they are urging him to direct Mr. Bowles to increase prices generally to take care of wage increases. Already the steel companies ^{have been ~~prom~~} ~~were~~ permitted a four dollar per ton increase in the price of steel. That one price increase would necessitate a change in price ceilings on literally many thousands of commodities because it has been estimated that one-half of the manufacturing plants of the nation use steel as a basic product. And now come the meat packers, the automobile manufacturers, farm machinery manufacturers, manufacturers of refrigerators, radios, and what-nots. If price increases are made on all of these to take care of wage increases, it will mean that the cost of living will go up. ^{SWP} The wage earners will then be little better off, if any, and more likely worse off, than if he had not obtained a wage increase at all. There is no end to the spiral of higher prices and higher wages chasing each other up the dizzy ladder of inflation once the policy is adopted ^{except} ~~the brink of economic disaster. And~~ ^{that possibility} ~~and yet~~ we are right now up against ~~it~~ and the President has that decision to make.

I would like to read a telegram which I sent to the President on last Thursday.

If President Truman chooses the inflationary course, I have grave fears of a period of inflation that would be followed with disastrous results.

MR. RICHBERG TALKS BACK

DONALD R. RICHBERG is, ordinarily, a mild-mannered man.

As a lawyer for the unions, as a co-author of the Railway Labor Act, and as a Government official in early New Deal years, he has abundantly proved his liberalism and his friendship for those who toil.

The Railway Labor Act—a labor-supported measure—has helped to prevent serious strikes on the nation's railroads for almost 20 years. Because of its success Mr. Richberg suggested, some time ago, that its principles be applied to all important industries. His suggestion took form in the Hatch-Ball-Burton bill, now before Congress.

The bill's introduction brought from officers of national labor organizations an amazing outburst of protest and abuse. Yesterday, speaking in New York, Mr. Richberg cast mild manners aside and talked back to the labor leaders. He said many things that are true and that, coming from him, carry great weight.

He did not spare criticism of management's faults. But, he pointed out, the balance of power has swung until now—

"Labor leaders are generally suffering from the delusions of rapidly swollen authority gained by political influence, by a special immunity from legal restraints, and by the command of organized force and violence which a sympathetic public permitted them to acquire and exercise in the days when unorganized, helpless wage earners were the common victims of injustice."

These labor leaders' greatest weakness, he went on, "is their hostility to impartial government. They feel that they are still entitled to an unfair deal . . .

"With short-sighted selfishness, they are trying to create an economic system in which all wage earners would be compelled to join unions and to accept the fixation of wages and jobs under the monopoly control of labor politicians. Their success would end a free, competitive economy and produce some form of state socialism as the inevitable outgrowth of the labor dictatorship which they are seeking to establish."

If labor-management warfare continues to spread, he warned, everyone eventually will be compelled to take sides under class-conscious leaders of either labor or management who are strong enough to swing national power. And this would mean government by one class or the other which, in either case, "would be destructive of political and economic freedom."

Today's urgent need, Mr. Richberg asserted, is to maintain the balances of economic power that are essential "to preserve democracy and free enterprise. Any power that grows into an ability to dictate to the rest of the people must be cut down . . . before it grows too great to be destroyed without a civil war . . .

"What is needed to stop this legalized flood of rising force and violence . . . is not a law to forbid strikes, but a law to make strikes unnecessary . . . a law establishing processes of justice for the settlement of economic conflicts; a law that sternly requires all those engaged in labor disputes to exhaust all peaceful ways and means of settling them before undertaking to make war on each other."

Mr. Richberg is correct, we think, in saying that labor leaders who automatically denounce all suggestions of such a law do not represent the opinion of most union members. We agree with him that "the American people in overwhelming numbers—including a large majority of labor unionists, as shown by every secret poll taken among them—want the Congress to pass a law that will end, or at least minimize, industrial warfare."