The Right to Work
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Published By The
NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE
35 Rust Bldg., Washington 5, D. C.

Vol. I, No. 3 June 30, 1955

POLITICAL CURB--Growing awareness of the threat of big labor domination of government, both state and local, has developed in recent months.

> Forthcoming CIO-AFL merger, of course, as well as outspoken promises of political action by union leaders, has been the cause.

Bills were introduced into three legislatures to limit such political activity. The first one to pass, in Wisconsin, provides that no union or labor organization "shall contribute any money, or anything of value, directly or indirectly, to any political party, political organization, political committee or individual candidate, for any purpose whatsoever, or to promote or defeat the candidacy of any person for nomination or election to any political office."

> Governor Kohler, friendly to labor, issued a statement approving the bill, declared: "It actually restores rights to individual members rather than depriving them of political rights, as has been alleged."

Labor Herald, an independent labor paper published in Baltimore, says "all top union officals...are agreed that the Wisconsin measure will outlaw CIO-PAC (Political Action Committee) and AFL-LLPE (Labor's League for Political Education)..."

Similar bills were before Ohio and Michigan legislatures, but both failed of passage. Michigan bill passed senate, but never voted out by House Elections Committee. Ohio bill killed by House Elections and Federal Relations Committee.

Michigan bill (S. B. 1401) went right to heart of compulsion tie-in, provided that "no candidate or political committee shall accept or spend any money or any other thing or service of value obtained from or paid for in whole or in part by any organization which any person is required, as a condition of employment, to join, remain in or support financially or otherwise."

> Comments Columnist George E. Sokolsky: "The theory is that compulsory membership in a political party is fascism and is, therefore repugnant to our institutions."

* * *

DISSE[illegible]--Largely buried [illegible] most of the [illegible] on the automobile-UAW contrac[illegible]eement [illegible] fact that Gene[illegible] for the first time agreed to an "unq[illegible] union [illegible]", [illegible] forcing all [illegible] union membership.

Estimates were t[illegible]ome 15 to 20 thou[illegible]rs [illegible] had refrained from joinin[illegible] union now [illegible]ed to [illegible] so.

[illegible]ed Mr. E. S. [illegible] president of the O[illegible] Dominion Box Co., Charlotte, N. C., and board cha[illegible]e Nati[illegible] R[illegible] Committee, in a letter t[illegible]. Har[illegible] [illegible] Cu[illegible]:

"[illegible]s one meri[illegible] [illegible]an [illegible], [illegible] express a viewpoint to you [illegible] I sincerely beli[illegible]es [illegible]ves your c[illegible]ns [illegible] have [illegible] a great disservice [illegible] competiti[illegible] free enterprise system [illegible]y and [illegible]e

(Continued on page 3)

With The Legislatures

WITH the 1955 Legislative season just about ended, there have been few important developments in the state right to work law picture, although Utah has adopted such a law, becoming the 18th state to do so, and Kansas likewise passed one, which was vetoed by the governor.

In all, the 1955 Legislative sessions to date have seen passage of right to work laws by two states (one vetoed), failure to pass or withdrawal in the face of strong opposition by 13, and attempts to repeal such measures defeated by six.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the 18 states now having right to work laws contain 46,524,000 persons, or more than one quarter of the nation's total population.

Developments since the last issue of the Newsletter:

ALABAMA—Efforts of Gov. Jim Folsom to repeal Alabama's Right to Work Law failed after active opposition by many strong groups over the state. The first repealer bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee and reported favorably by it. However, the House then recommitted it to the Business and Labor Committee, where political observers say it is dead. Meantime, the administration has introduced another measure providing that where as much as 80 per cent of a plant's employees vote for a union shop the Right to Work law's protection for the other 20 per cent doesn't apply. This is not expected to get beyond committee, however.

* * *

ARIZONA—A columnist for the Phoenix Republic reports that Arizona's Right to Work Law will be a major issue in 1956 elections, and says organized labor is determined to defeat it. "Domination of the legislature by members pledged to support (the State Federation of Labor) program is not an impossibility," he says.

This program, just adopted, calls for repeal of the Right to Work Law, taking over the steering wheel of both houses of the legislature in the 1956 elections, and defeat of Sen. Barry Goldwater if he runs for reelection in 1958.

"They (labor leaders) are going about the task properly—through thorough organization," the writer continues. **"There is no comparable organized opposition."**

* * *

CONNECTICUT—Four right to work measures were reported unfavorably by the House Labor Committee after a demonstration of some 600 union members against it during hearings. The New Britain Herald reported the two sponsors of one of the measures spoke against it, saying they had introduced it by request. Adam Raczkowski of Southington, who said he had asked that the bills be introduced, declared: "I am a laboring man, and I firmly believe that these bills will go a long way towards accomplishing the ends of the unions." Those speaking in favor of the bills were loudly booed.

* * *

INDIANA—State AFL claims credit for keeping proposed right to work law bottled [illegible] committee until Legislature adjo[illegible] sands of petitions they ob[illegible] through thou- over the state.

Meantime, state's newly appointed labor commissioner, George Hinkle, has come out in favor of compulsory unionism and in praise of the Auto-UAW annual wage plan.

* * *

KANSAS—After the House of Representatives had refused to tack the right to work bill (previously passed and vetoed by Gov. Hall) onto another labor measure, sponsors of the legislation announced their determination to renew the fight next session.

The political editor of the Topeka S[illegible]te Journal reported that right to work sponsors, working through Kansas for the Right to Work, Inc., and other interested groups, plan to take the fight to the polls next year.

"Encouraged by a groundswell of resentment in the wake of Governor Hall's veto, the fight was renewed," he reports. "The battle is expected to be more bitter than in any of the previous attempts to put the proposal in the Kansas Statutes." Columnist A. L. Shultz said no public reaction to an executive move in the last third of a century had equalled the protests following veto of the labor bill.

Proponents will demand "open, public statements by every candidate for the state Senate and House of Representatives as to their stand," he reported.

* * *

KENTUCKY—Both B. T. Combs and A. B. (Happy) Chandler, two leading candidates for Democratic nomination for governor, have come out against a right to work law for Kentucky. State AFL has endorsed Chandler, but both are fervently seeking the union vote. Meantime, Associated Industries of Kentucky, the state Farm Bureau and state Chamber of Commerce are all reported interested in pushing such a bill at the next legislature in 1956. An attempt to pass one was defeated in 1954.

* * *

LOUISIANA—The threat to seek repeal of Louisiana's 1954 Right to Work Law at the special session of the legislature this spring was abandoned after it became apparent a majority of the legislators showed a definite dislike for anything but fiscal matters, for which the session was called. However, Louisiana Federation of Labor, looking forward to added strength via proposed merger with CIO, has pledged all out fight to unseat all members of Legislature who supported right to work bill in next elections.

* * *

MINNESOTA—A Right to Work bill was introduced in the House, but never received serious consideration. However, the President of the State Federation of Labor has warned that this may b[illegible] the big political issue in 1956, and said such bill could p[illegible] "if Liber[illegible]s lost control of [illegible] lower hou[illegible]

cause of American business in general in agreeing to the complete compulsory unionization of the total General Motors work force.

"I am not qualified to discuss the pros and cons of the so-called guaranteed annual wage plan, but I am qualified to understand the far-ranging significance of the management of General Motors agreeing with the labor union leaders to force the General Motors work force to be members of the union in order to hold their jobs. Practical aspects of the situation notwithstanding, it is a serious encroachment upon individual liberty for the management of America's largest corporation and labor union leaders to agree to take liberty away from the work force of so large a business entity."

* * *

LOUISIANA LAW UPHELD--The Louisiana Right to Work Law was upheld in its entirety by the First Circuit Court of Appeals recently, when it sustained a lower court ruling against Lake Charles Local No. 406 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL. The union was restrained from picketing a highway construction job under the right to work law prohibition of picketing in an attempt to force the employer to hire only union workers.

The decision also upheld the section permitting labor unions as well as their individual members to be sued. The ruling, first decision on the 1954 Louisiana law by an appeals court, was unanimous.

* * *

ACCUSERS MUST JUDGE--U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld lower court, dismissing appeal of NRTW Committee Board Member John Alabaugh and five fellow engineers on the B. and O. Railroad. The six had gone to court seeking to prevent their dismissal for failure to belong to the BLE, claiming that membership in the United Railroad Operating Craft was sufficient. The B. and O. has signed a Union Shop contract with the BLE.

The court ruled that the six had not exhausted their administrative procedures before the Railroad Adjustment Board, and told them to return there. Although the men's attorney pointed out that the adjustment board was composed of representatives of the railroad and the union who had initiated the dismissal action and were defendants in the court suit, the judge said, in effect, that was a matter for Congressional remedy since it had set up such a board and given it such authority.

Many other such cases on the part of railroad men seeking to prevent dismissal are pending throughout the United States, many involving men with 30, 35 and 40 or more years experience as railroaders.

> They are risking all they have accumulated in experience, value to their employers and their own security to uphold a principle--they don't believe in being forced into membership in a union, although a great many of them have been union members for many, many years.

* * *

MORE LEGAL SANCTION--Compulsory unionism forces get new backing from the courts in a New York decision (joining some 20 other states) finding that a man

(Continued on page 4)

MISSISSIPPI—The State Chamber of Commerce, predicting a strong effort in 1956 to repeal the state's right to work law, has asked all its supporters to determine the position of candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and the state legislature on this matter before voting for them.

* * *

MISSOURI—After a bill to submit the right to work issue to the people in November, 1956, was defeated in the House Constitutional Amendments Committee, 7-2, supporters are reported to be considering effort to get it on ballot through public petition.

* * *

NEBRASKA—CIO groups in Omaha have announced a determined fight to repeal the Nebraska Right to Work provision in the State Constitution. One local will launch a publicity campaign, featuring stickers to go on mail bearing an outline of Nebraska and proclaiming: "Nebraska Scab Constitution."

* * *

OKLAHOMA—Proposed attempt to push right to work law through Oklahoma legislature this year was abandoned as lawmakers adjourned last month with no such measure introduced. Similar attempt failed two years ago after a bitter fight, and backers are said to feel need for major statewide information and education program to insure success of next effort.

* * *

WISCONSIN—Talk of a fight to pass right to work legislation in Wisconsin this year came to naught. However, the Badger state did pass an important related measure—one prohibiting labor unions from contributing "directly or indirectly" for political purposes. (Page 1)

discharged from his job under a union shop contract has chosen "voluntary separation" from his work, and is not entitled to unemployment compensation benefits.

"When there is an effective union agreement by which membership in good standing is a necessary ingredient to continued employment, a man who chooses not to have union membership necessarily chooses not to have work in that shop", ruled the court. (Malispina, N.Y. App.Div., 3rd Dept. (Albany) 4/1/55). The decision reversed a ruling by the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board.

Other states whose courts have previously ruled similarly: Ala., Calif., Conn., Ind., Iowa, Mass., Minn., Mich., Mo., N. J., N. Mex., Ohio, Ore., Pa., R. I., Utah, Va., Wash., W. Va., Wisc.

Thus, more and more does it become vital to completely outlaw compulsory unionism in the interests of American workers.

> Declared the Charleston, S. C., News and Courier: "The freedom of the individual has suffered many encroachments. This case is only another sample. As a matter of law, the decision may be unassailable. But as a matter of human rights, we think it is depressing."

* * *

VIRGINIA ACTIVE--NRTW Committee members in Virginia are really pushing the organization to fight compulsory unionism. Vice-Chairman Nathan Thorington of the National Committee is chairman of a state committee with headquarters in Richmond. This committee has recently been active in helping to organize a second Virginia committee at Lynchburg, with Robert Englander, president of Appomattox Garment Co., and Lynn Manufacturing Co., as chairman. He is also vice chairman of the State committee. David E. Basten, vice-president of the Carrington-Dirom-Basten Co., Inc., was named treasurer. The committee, which already has 35 members, meets monthly to discuss compulsion and related matters.

> The Virginia committee has been approached by leaders in other area cities asking help in forming local right to work committees as affiliates of the national group. (Write either Mr. Thorington, any other board member or national headquarters for information.)

* * *

TO HIGH COURT--The Virginia Supreme Court has agreed to review a case brought (and lost in lower court) by two employes of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway to prevent their discharge under a union shop contract. Judge Ray Doubles of Richmond Husting Court, Part II, ruled in July 1954 that the state's right to work law could not protect A. B. Moore and H. A. Foxwell of Richmond in their jobs, if they would not join a union, that the Railroad Labor Act was a regulation of commerce within the Commerce Clause of the Constitution and superseded the state law.

No date has been set for the high court hearing.

This brings to three the number of similar cases nearing state supreme court rulings, and possible final determination by the U. S. Supreme Court. The other two involve the Union Pacific Railroad in Nebraska and the Santa Fe systems in Texas.

* * *

THE ISSUES (in Unions' Eyes)--Congratulations to ELRIC (Employers Labor Relations Information Committee) for an excellent four months (January-April) study of labor publications and an analysis of the issues of the day as Labor sees them.

Conclusions weren't surprising, although highly significant. They found that, in terms of space devoted to them, labor publications rated the first two issues of the day:

1. Political education, with particular emphasis upon mobilization of labor's voting resources.

2. Opposition to state "right to work" laws.

The next four, in this order, were: Foreign affairs, including heavy coverage of trade, tariffs and unemployment due to imports manufactured by "cheap" foreign labor; National economy; Merger of the AFL-CIO and its potentialities; and, Minimum wage.

* * *

VOICE OF THE WOMEN--The New York State Federation of Women's Clubs has adopted a resolution declaring that the right to work is inalienable, and stating: "No American man or woman should have to pay tribute to any organization in order to obtain work or continue at work."