

The Right to Work

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. I, No. 5

August 15, 1955

NRTWC BOARD ADDS MEMBERS--The National Right to Work Committee Board of Directors was expanded by three when two worker representatives and a business man were made new members at the July 15 meeting in Washington.

The Board also approved an expanded membership drive for late summer and fall, and voted in favor of a broadened educational and information campaign in behalf of the right to work without being forced to join or remain a member of any private organization for the privilege.

Board Chairman E. S. Dillard and President Fred A. Hartley, Jr., reported to the board that support and letters expressing interest and backing of the committee's fight against compulsory unionism were being received from workers, business men and other citizens all over the United States.

New members elected to the board:

L. A. HOOSER, railroad engineer and employee of the B. and O. Railroad for 16 years, and former member of both the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. Mr. Hooser was notified last January that he was being discharged from the B. and O. under its union shop contract on demand of the B. L. F. & E. (although he had been refused a renewal of his membership in this union a year earlier and had recently rejoined the B. L. E., which refused to represent him and defend his job). He, along with eight other employees similarly threatened with loss of jobs, secured a temporary restraining order which so far has been kept in effect by the court. Mr. Hooser, 38, is married and the father of one child. He and his family live at 2722 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

ROBERT A. ENGLANDER, Lynchburg, Virginia, manufacturer and chairman of the Lynchburg Right to Work Committee, local affiliate of the NRTWC. Mr. Englander, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1938, was engaged in sales, production and administration work in the New England paper industry from 1938 to 1949, except for a hitch as naval aviator (1942-44). He is now board chairman and president of the Lynn Manufacturing Company, Inc., the Appomattox Garment Co., Inc., and the Factory Realty Corp. He is also a director of Central Virginia Industries and a registered professional engineer.

PAUL RUSSELL, Decatur, Ala., an employee of the Wolverine Tube Co., of that city. Mr. Russell, a former member of the International Association of Machinists at the Beech Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kas., and of several other unions, did not think it to his advantage to join the UAW-CIO when it attempted to organize Wolverine, and, despite threats and intimidation, refused to do so. When they continued to seek to force his membership, Mr. Russell undertook an opposition

AMERICANS MUST HAVE THE RIGHT, BUT NOT BE COMPELLED TO JOIN LABOR UNIONS

movement and eventually forced the decertification of that particular union as bargaining agent when a majority of his fellow workers voted with him in an NLRB election. Mr. Russell testified against compulsory union membership before the Alabama Legislature when it passed a state Right to Work Law in 1954.

Mr. Russell is 42, married and lives at 2314 Country Club Road, Decatur.

* * *

WORKERS FIGHT BACK--Not all of the 17,000 General Motors employes being ordered to join unions under the company's recent agreement to a union shop are going to take the destruction of their economic liberty without a struggle.

George Rose, Indianapolis attorney, filed suit in Superior Court there August 2 in the name of V. R. Smith, an employe of the Allison Division there, and on behalf of 200 more GM workers there and at Anderson, Ind.

The suit seeking a temporary restraining order and temporary injunction against enforcement of the union shop agreement between GM and the CIO-United Auto Workers was heard August 9, and the judge gave attorneys until Aug. 13 to file supporting briefs. He left the restraining order in force, meantime.

The Union shop pact, under which an estimated 17,000 GM workers would be forced to join the union or be discharged, was vigorously defended by GM lawyers.

The complaint said that the union shop provision is a violation of the Indiana constitution and the State law protecting workers from interference or coercion by employers and that the union shop agreement compels GM to coerce workers to join the union. The judge's ruling on a temporary injunction is expected this week.

* * *

"IRREVOCABLY AUTHORIZE"--Reports indicate that many other GM workers feel just as bitter over the union shop contract forcing them into membership in a union they would have joined long ago if they had wanted to of their own volition.

Several have become members of the National Right to Work Committee in protest against such compulsion.

One disgruntled employe forwards the application for union membership and authorization for check-off of union dues-- to be mailed back to the financial secretary of the union but sent to all employes with a letter from the company.

Anyone signing the application for membership agrees:

"I further irrevocably designate, authorize and empower the said Union exclusively to appear and act for me and in my behalf before any board, court, committee or other tribunal in any matter affecting my status as an employe, or as a member of said union, and exclusively to act as my agent, to represent and bind me in the presentation, prosecution, adjustment and settlement of all grievances, complaints or disputes of any kind or character arising out of an employer-employe relationship as fully and to all intents and purposes as I might or could do if personally present."

That's a pretty drastic give-away of rights and personal authority-- since it's to be done under duress and not of the employe's own free will.

* * *

LAST 1955 FIGHT--With seven more legislative days to go (spread over next three weeks) it looks as if Alabama Governor Folsom's fight to repeal the state's Right to Work Law is a lost cause. The repealer bill is on the House adverse calendar and sponsors admit they can't get a majority of membership vote to force

it out. Meanwhile, alternate bill to make union shop legal if 80 per cent of employes of particular plant have voted for it is on House calendar, but likelihood of passage considered extremely doubtful. Alabama's is the last legislature meeting this year in which important union shop action has been a possibility.

* * *

HYPOCRISY IN THE RAW--That is the title of an editorial in a recent issue of UROC Facts, published by the United Railroad Operating Crafts, anti-compulsory membership union of railroad workers. The editorial:

"There was a full-page cartoon on the inside cover of the June issue of the BLF&E Magazine. It shows an academic fellow in mortarboard handing a graduation diploma to a young fellow, also in mortarboard and gown.

"The diploma says: "To become successful, join a union of your choice."

"Down in the front row, a character labelled "The World" chimes in: "That's good advice, son!"

"Pete Dangelo and Pat Stack of the New York Central lines east did join a union of their choice--UROC. They, too, got a diploma--telling them they were fired after more than 30 years of service because they joined a union of their choice.

"Who caused them to be fired? The BLF&E!"

* * *

FREE RIDERS--About the only argument union leaders have to try to justify forced membership by all employes in their unions is the now familiar "free rider" one. They say they back the union shop to get rid of the free riders--those who receive the benefits of collective bargaining, but pay none of the costs.

This argument was pretty thoroughly slapped down by the Supreme Court of Nebraska in its recent decision that the union shop contract between the Union Pacific Railroad and several railroad unions was illegal under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Taking note of the free rider argument, the Court commented:

"Assuming it would be reasonable to require free riders to pay their proportionate share of the cost of collective bargaining...we do not think the means selected has any real and substantial relation to the object sought to be obtained.

"First, and primarily, because an employe's freedom of association, that is his right to join or not to join a union, has no relationship to the object sought, and, second by requiring him to pay initiation fees, dues and assessments, he is required to pay for many things besides the cost of collective bargaining."

It noted that many unions have welfare funds, insurance programs, publish newspapers, engage in various lobbying and political activities, all of which had no direct relation to the collective bargaining process. The court added:

"In some instances, compulsory membership would compel support, financial and otherwise, of policies which an employe might deem objectionable from the standpoint of free government and the liberties of the individual under it.

"To compel an employe to make involuntary contributions, from his compensation, for such purposes is a taking of his property without due process of law.

"An employe not only has the right to work, but he has the guaranteed right to have his earnings protected against confiscation against his will."

SHORT TAKES--Board Chairman Dillard upheld Right to Work laws in debate at the Industrial Relations Institute sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in July. Mr. Dillard told the 300-odd labor management experts present that the spread of compulsory unionism throughout the entire United States work force would have critical consequences to America. He debated the issue with L. N. D. Wells, Jr., general counsel for the Texas Federation of Labor, one of the chief attorneys in the Unions' union shop fight against the Santa Fe Railroad system ...Charles Schultz, president of the Wisconsin State CIO, writing a recent guest column in the Eau Claire, Wisc., Leader, defended the union shop, but admitted: "When, however, the opportunity to work is dependent upon union membership and the membership is full or closed, a man's liberty is involved."...Columnist Al Schottelkotte declares in the Cincinnati Inquirer: "There very well could be local political repercussions over publicity being given to the high-handed way George Harrison runs his huge Railway Brotherhood (clerks). Harrison, one of the country's most influential labor leaders...has openly taken an active part in local Democratic affairs the last few years. Stories on Harrison's treatment of some rank and file brotherhood members won't make many average union members any too enthusiastic about him or anything he espouses..." (Mr. Harrison has been a leading advocate of compulsory union membership.)...Six more Cincinnati employes of the Pennsylvania R.R., seeking reinstatement in the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, have been given a setback in federal court, where their suit was dismissed on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction. They contended the refusal of BRT to reinstate them would mean they would lose their jobs, under the union shop contract signed by the railroad. ...The Southern California AFL district director has notified all unions in the area that an effort will be made to put a Right to Work proposal on the 1956 general election ballot. He warns AFL members not to sign the petitions.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: FRED A. HARTLEY, JR, President
National Right to Work Committee
35 Rust Building, Washington 5, D.C.

I am interested in the work of the National Right to Work Committee, and its campaign for the principle: "Americans Must Have the Right, But Not Be Compelled to join Labor Unions." Please send me additional information on this subject, and let me know how I can join the committee and help in this vital fight against forcing anyone to contribute to a private organization for the right to earn a living.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY AND STATE _____

Please send this Newsletter and other information on the Right to Work campaign to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY AND STATE _____

"Americans Must Have the Right, But Not Be Compelled to Join Labor Unions"
