

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC, at the 8th Annual Convention of the R.I. State Industrial Union Council, C.I.O. at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, R.I. on Sunday December 2, 1945

I am glad to be with you. I am always happy to attend the gatherings of ~~the~~ representatives of the men and women who are the producers of the great bulk of the Nation's wealth - and at the same time are the consumers of that wealth. It is ^{to} ~~upon~~ those consumers that the Nation ~~depends~~ ^{must look} for the prosperity and success ^{which} we all hope is to be ours.

It seems only yesterday that we heard ~~on every hand~~ ^{frequently} the statement that this great ~~industrial~~ ^{industry} nation could avoid all ~~the~~ danger of depressions and panics, if ~~it~~ ^{the} could but solve the problem of distribution. ^{the problem of getting all its products into the hands of the consumer} I recall hearing one of your officers tell a meeting of CIO members in Elk's Auditorium in Providence that America's real problem was that of distributing the great outpourings of our mills and factories. Once accomplished that job would mean the opening of a new and greater era for all the people of the country - employers and employees alike.

In 1940 we embarked on a great preparedness program. That program continued into the ~~years~~ ^{years} of war and because there was no problem of ~~in~~ distributing our industrial output - ~~and~~ the wheels hummed and instead of unemployment there was actually an acute shortage of skilled labor.

With the termination of that great war ^{and more} we have been brought face to

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face with that problem, ~~once more~~.

It stands out now in even sharper focus ~~for one principal~~
~~reason. That reason~~ - because the trade union ^{2 AMERICA} movement has come
of age. ~~The~~ Men and women ^{LIKE YOURSELVES} who belong to trade unions ~~have~~ ^{are} seen
to it that the general public ~~should~~ ^{are} be made aware of the problems

beset which ~~has~~ the industrial life of America. The Labor Unions of

America have demonstrated clearly that the problem of distribu-
^{and their solution lies in}
tion ~~can be solved in but one manner~~ ^{permanently (is the one permanent solution)} - by providing the working

men and women of the country with a sufficient income to purchase
more and more of the products of industry - to provide for them-
selves and their children a constantly improving standard of living -
a standard which in itself will provide an ever increasing market for

the products of industrial ^{ingenuity} ~~and~~ and inventiveness.

In the United States ^{some}
~~throughout the world~~ there are ~~some~~ outstanding examples of intelli-
gent employers who have come to realize that ^{their} providing employees with ~~some~~ income

which guarantee security is the best possible method of conducting a
profitable business. Witness Proctor & Gamble, Hormel Company and
others - outstanding producers in their fields - check their standing

on the stock-market, - They conduct profitable businesses - their stock-holders receive good dividends - the public has confidence in their products - and they don't know what the word strike means.

These are examples of intelligent leadership in the field of industrial relations - witness the ~~great universal popularity~~ universal popularity of a man like Eric Johnson of the United States Chamber of Commerce who ~~advocates~~ acknowledges that unions are here to stay and advocates an intelligent effort to compromise the differences between employer and employee.

Why then, ~~is there~~ must there be industrial unrest throughout the length and breadth of the land? The unrest ~~prevalent~~ of the day is not confined to one city or state or to one region - it is nation-wide.

The unrest is not confined to one shop or one industry or ~~to one labor union~~ ^{to} ~~union~~ the members of one labor union. It is a general unrest and ~~it~~ ^{we} find its cause in the basic fact that the men and women who must operate the machines and the tools of industry are no longer able to maintain their standard of living at the wages they now receive. ~~It is~~ ^{The} ~~the~~ seat of the trouble is in the hearts of reactionary - yes, I know the word is ~~a~~ ^{poison} ~~poison~~ to many - but reactionary is the

word - in the ~~reactionary~~ ~~backward~~ ~~thinking~~ hearts of reactionary - back-
ward thinking and backward acting - employers who advocate a return to the
~~Laissez Faire~~
Laissez Faire of the twenties.

Their attitude is apparent to anyone with courage enough to look the facts
squarely in the face. They engage in tactics deliberately aimed at provok- ^{fight}
ing labor. <sup>THEY advocate a large labor pool rather than working men & women with ~~fight~~ with each
other for any job available - at whatever the wage.</sup> They engage in ~~what~~ amounts to - for all practical purposes - a
virtual sit down strike - and refuse to ~~give~~ give to a hungry market the
products for which we have all longed throughout the years when all produc-
tion was centred on war goods. Returning veterans as well as civilian fam-
ilies are denied the things they need - because production and sales after
the first of the year will not be subject to excess profits taxes.

In spite of this blind selfishness on the part of ~~some~~ industrialists,
some newspapers seek to apply the white-wash and at the same time heap
abuse on labor unions whose members seek an increase in wages in order to
enable them to meet prevailing prices.

~~Business-minded~~

The Congress of the United States rushed through tax relief measures
for industry - it also provided ~~reconversion~~ financial assistance through
reconversion - which added to the War Bond ~~tax~~ credits which are availa-

ble to industry, gurantees the security of its finacial position.

- when asked to pass a Full Employment Bill. to raise the minimum wage
 But ~~the~~ same Congress ^{instead} prepared ^{the voice with which} to brand labor once more as the

evil influence in American society. Union pickets are to be

officially branded as Robbers and Extortioners under one pro-

posal' and under another - nurtured by that stout champion of

the American people - Smith of Virginia ^{under the proposal} - the ill-formed and

ill-fated Smith-Connally Act is to be supplanted by a measure

which of necessity will destroy completely ~~all forms of work~~

all faith in collective bargaining. Management is to be invited

by Smith(s Bill to force a work-stoppage - and unions are to

be told they are stupid if they enter into any kind of a con-

tract with management. If this bill- originated in a passion

of hate - should become law, then industrial relations in the

United States ^{will} ~~shall~~ sink to a new low - and the prosperous years

for which all the people had hoped will be doomed in an era of

industrial strife - depression and panic.

It is not only the members of labor unions who have a stake in

the present conflict. Every member of the public has a vital con-

cern in solving properly - not under the whip of starvation wages -
 the problems which beset the economy of the country. Every member
 of the public should be aware of the fact that these ~~same~~ industrial-
 inflation
 ists who cry ~~poverty~~ when wage increases are demanded - are the
 same industrialists who lobby and fight for the repeal of all ~~regula-~~
~~tions~~ controls on prices to the consumer. While they denounce
 on the one hand the men in the factories who want a decent wage -
 they demand on the other that they be permitted to gouge the public
 of all the traffic will bear.

Whether one is a member of a labor organization - a white-collar
 worker - or an ~~entrepreneur~~ entrepreneur - all of us are vitally concerned with
 the economic problems which cry for solution. There is a deliberate
 attempt to make it appear that labor unions and their members are in
 a class apart - that their interests are diametrically opposed to
 the interests of all other members of society. It is this type of
 propoganda which will break down confidence in, our democratic form
 of government.

We are all in this thing together - whatever benefits are achieved

by the members of labor unions redound to the butcher the grocer
the insurance salesman and every other member of the community.

All members of the community depend, in the last analysis, on
the wages taken home by the workers in our industrial establishments.
Every member of society will profit if those workers are kept employed
at a wage will permit them to buy the products which merchants advertise
for sale. ^{And} Every member of the community must suffer when those workers
are turned into the streets to sell apples or ~~corn cobs with husks on them~~
beg - so too, does every member of the community suffer when those
workers are paid a wage sufficient only to enable them to obtain the
bare necessities of life.

The way out of our troubles is through full employment and full
production. The President of our Country has pleaded for it. Some of
America's greatest economists have stamped it as the only feasible
solution to ever-recurring depressions - yet there are in Congress
those who serve only the ~~new~~ disciples of the philosophy of "Root
hog or die."

The apostles of Boom and Bust denounce the Full employment Bill

as a dream of utopia impossible of attainment. The Tories laughed at the Founding Fathers and accused them of entertaining a utopian dream which was impossible of attainment. Yet we stand here today sons and daughters of the greatest land in all the world as a result of those Founding Fathers who dared to be brave - who dared to defy the unknown and strike out on a path fraught with danger - because they had courage and confidence and were not content to live in the stultified atmosphere of those who look only to the rear and ^{who} are content to live in the past.

The world thirsts for goods - every market in the world - at home and abroad - displays empty shelves. With the industrial ~~new~~ know-how which we in America possess we can flood the world with our products and get the greatest era known to man under way. With the impetus ~~this~~ gained we can embark on a ~~steady~~ program ^{of} steadily improv^{ING} the standard of living of all Americans - ^{of} care^{ING} for the sick - and assur^{ING} an old age free from economic worries ^{FOR} the men and women who have given their best years in the service of their country. All this

is not a utopian dream ~~impossible attainment~~. It is at our

finger tips ~~if we will but decide to cooperate in order to achieve it.~~ *and we can have it if we have the courage to reach for it.*

We need courage again. We need an end to defeatism. We need an end to the idea that men must toil and be silent and never speak out against the injus-

tices which ~~deny to them~~ *a share in the fruits of their labor.*

Just as we need an abrupt halt in imperialism abroad - so we need an

abrupt halt in imperialism at home. Capital can't work with out labor

any more than labor can work without capital. We need a respect for each *ARRDGANCE will defeat our purpose - Cooperation will enable us to achieve it.*

other's rights and privileges - but we are growing tired of the ~~arrogance~~

those who have been standing on their rights so long they have forgotten

how to walk.

~~(The reverence in the sanctity of contracts)~~ A man's word is his bond. But

~~this is something more to a contract involving human life and labor~~

~~than a mere deathless and lifeless document of paper and ink. It is not~~

~~so long ago that the Supreme Court of these United States upheld the san-~~

~~ctity of a contract which permitted a child to destroy its life at sweat-~~

~~shop wages~~

This country has been made great because it has ~~dared~~ dared to push on

in spite of obstacles placed in its path by those who were afraid of the future. ~~This land~~ became ~~great~~ the great hope of immigrants from the old world because here there was chance for everyone. Men felled the forests and dared to try to find a better life amid dangerous surroundings. ~~This nation~~ ^{WE} has fought for freedom against oppression. It has ~~been~~ ^{BEEN} oft proclaimed that ~~it~~ ^{WE} believes in the rights of all

~~men and women.~~ *people*

There are men and women here in America whose right to a decent and secure future must be believed in and defended. There are economic forests which must be conquered. There are obstructions which must be overcome. They shall be conquered. They shall be overcome. With courage in the right as God permits us to see the right we shall go on to greater heights than we have yet known.

Those who hate labor - those who seek to pit one working man against another for personal profit - ~~they shall not~~ though they meet with temporary success - ~~they will not be successful for long.~~ *their day will be short one* We have come a long way - we shall go on undaunted by temporary reverses. WE'll have full employment - we'll have a decent minimum wage - we'll have

genuine
~~genuine~~ social security for all. - ~~because we are~~ ~~fighting~~

~~By~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~confronting~~ our problems we can demonstrate to
all the people of the country that our cause is just and our plan
is a sound one. The public will find we fight its battle. The
public will support our efforts to produce a sound and prosperous

~~economy~~

genuine social security for all because the public will come to
know that we ~~fight~~ ~~its~~ ~~battle~~ are fighting its battle for security
and prosperity .