

Address delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC on the Floor of the House
of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1946, on the Case Bill (HR 5262).
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I think it is fair to say that this House has rarely if ever
~~has this house~~ witnessed the confusion that has been apparent since
these various measures, substitutes and amendments to substitutes
came under consideration.

I have heard member after member arise to ~~argue~~ propose or
oppose all manner of varying suggestions and ideas. Parliamentary
inquiries have been as thick as rain.

All this confusion and uncertainty point to one unmistakable
fact. The members of this House know down deep in their hearts
that this Case Bill is not the cure-all for industrial unrest.
The measure is put forth here ~~in just the same spirit as~~ under sim-
ilar circumstances as those which attended the debate over the
Smith-Connally Bill.

The same heat the same fury which many of us decried at that
time is present once more and some members of this House seem
possessed with the idea that punitive legislation, in any form,
will cure all our industrial ills. Common sense dictates that
this is the wrong way to approach the problem.

None of the proponents of this legislation attempt to get
at the basic causes of the present difficulties. No one makes
any pretense of ~~endeavoring~~ of endeavoring to find out just what is
wrong. Instead we have loud denunciations of Labor - and stal-
wart defenses of Industry by the self-annointed champions of
Private Enterprise.

Every human is susceptible to error. None of us can claim
perfection. However, it is wearisome to attend on the sessions of

Woonsocket Call
" R.I.

Westerly Sun
" R.I.

Pawtuxet Valley Dly Times
W. Warwick, R.I.

Labor Press
Federal St.
Worcester, Mass.

Prov. Journal

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the House and listen to the oft-repeated inference that Industry can do no wrong - and by the same token, every gesture, every utterance of a member of a Labor Union is damnable treachery.

The Labor unions were to be punished by the Smith-Connally Bill and those of us who opposed its passage were described as obstructionists and men who would support Labor no matter what its demands. The printing presses which ground out the copies of that misnamed legislation were scarcely cleaned before the cries for repeal arose all over the land. The bill accomplished nothing save the expenditure of a ridiculous amount of money that could have been used to far better advantage in a study of the economic cause of industrial strife.

That Smith-Connally Bill accomplished one other thing - far from curing anything in our economic or industrial ~~lines~~ fields - it was the immediate cause of unrest, distrust and deceit. No Industry could feel secure - no union could feel safe. A premium was placed on work-stoppages and the Nation undertook to assist in the cultivation of labor unrest.

This Case Bill will accomplish the same purpose. Unions will be told by this Congress - should the Case Bill be enacted - that ~~its~~ it has no rights which are entitled to protection. ~~It will~~ ~~be named~~ Unions will be warned that it must not enter into contracts with employers. The spectre of the Yellow-dog contract and union busting goons will be with us once more. Company unions will be ordered by all segments of industry and instead of progressing ~~ix~~ toward a fuller life for all the people of the land

we shall find ourselves embarked upon a program of exploitation of the working men and women of America.

Instead of cultivating the greatest market American Industry has in the world - the American family - we shall devote our energies to cultivating markets abroad and reducing the American family to the status it occupied in the days of ~~company owned~~ company owned homes, company owned stores, company owned villages, that marked the black days of the last generation.

~~This~~ Congress did not debate in heat and passion the abolition of excess profits taxes. ~~This~~ Congress quite calmly provided for industry the fullest possible measure of financial assistance to tide ~~over the~~ industry over the so-called perilous reconversion period. Those aids which Congress bestowed on Industry are now used quite boldly in strike breaking tactics and it is considered horrible for any man to question such use. Never do we hear from proponents of slave labor legislation a suggestion that perhaps Industry may be at fault in some degree. Never do we hear criticism of Industry although it defied the President of the United States and the long-suffering public of the United States. Industry refuses to cooperate until its demands for increased profits are met in full. ~~It is bargaining~~ It cries ~~on~~ at one ~~the one hand~~ for leadership from the White House and then dams the White House when the President proposes a solution to the ^{General} difficulty. Industry has struck in the ~~General~~ Motors and Steel Industries just as surely as any Union ever organized a picket line. Industry's pickets are now around the White House ~~working their~~ plying their trade to force an increase in

prices - ~~an increase not~~ not an increase dictated by all the facts - but an increase dictated by the Steel Industry and by the General Motors Corporation. They must have their way or their will be no industrial peace.

In spite of this arrogant attitude, the only words we hear in this House are those which denounce Labor Unions as flagrant violators of the peace of the land.

The President, who is denounced for his lack of leadership, proposed a Full Employment Bill as a ~~possible~~ cure for depressions, as a stimulant to business and a course to be followed in providing full production and full employment. The Congress ignored the proposal and squeezed through a pious declaration of hopes that would have looked bad coming from a High School debating society.

The President asked for an increase in the minimum wage. This too is destined for the discard.

~~All the proposals that have been made, that of the President~~

No matter what the ~~proposal~~ proposal or suggestion, no matter from what source it comes, if it smacks of a friendly attitude toward the men and women who work in the shops and mills, then it is immediately condemned as something sponsored by communist intrigue. ~~The only bills which can get a hearing in Congress are~~
~~them~~ To get a hearing in this Congress it seems the first requisite of a Bill must be a denunciation of Labor and a threat of punitive action ~~if~~ unless Labor sits up and begs.

Throughout the length and breadth of the country there are labor unions by the score who have settled their difficulties without the necessity of a work stoppage. The Unions which have struck, in almost every single instance, have endeavored for many months to arrive at a meeting of the minds before resorting to the use of labor's only economic weapon.

Every member of this House knows the course of the efforts in the General Motors case to settle that wage dispute without a strike. The daily papers carried the stories of the weeks and weeks of conferences and meetings during which time the Union endeavored to settle the dispute through collective bargaining.

Those unions which have been successful in their efforts to work out their difficulties are ignored. Those which have been driven to strike are condemned. I submit, in all fairness, Labor cannot possibly be all wrong and Industry all right.

That there is difficulty at the present time it is foolish to deny. That this bill will resolve those difficulties it is equally foolish to assert.

~~This~~ An honest attempt to arrive at some common meeting ground will meet with the enthusiastic support of the Unions. Taking out the black jack as is proposed here will merit only opposition from the unions.