

Address of Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC, 2nd Rhode Island District, before the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, at hearings held March 7, 1949.

I appear before you today in a dual capacity - as a Member of Congress and as an active member of organized labor. In both capacities I earnestly plead for the immediate repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

As a Member of Congress who ran on the Democratic Platform in the last campaign I sincerely hope that we keep faith with the people who returned us to office. That platform was clear cut in its promise to repeal the Act. There has been no doubt of the decision of the people in this matter - not only in my own State of Rhode Island but throughout the entire nation.

The greatest propaganda movement ever unleashed in this country has tried to sell the infamous Taft-Hartley law as one which would free union members from the shackles imposed upon them by their unscrupulous leaders. Through every medium possible, this falsehood has been repeated and repeated until it has worn thin. As a card-carrying member of organized labor, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to report that this program of falsity has fallen of its own weight. Labor, today, is not the gullible mass of yesteryear. Both individually and collectively it knows the real purpose of this law.

The laboring man knows that the actual intent of the Taft-Hartley law, although unpublicized and unadvertised, is the ultimate destruction of all organized labor. Born in the minds of confirmed labor haters, it was diabolically conceived to eventually relegate labor back to its old position of a commodity with no consideration for his dignity and well-being. That this must not prevail is the confirmed thought of all the

American people as evidenced by their solid action in the recent election.

The time for action is Now. The subject has been thoroughly discussed and analyzed for the past two years. Congress, itself, is guilty of procrastinating at a time when it should be taking affirmative action. There is no need for prolonged hearings or presentations. It is our duty to reflect the wishes of our people and I, for one, want the right to stand on the floor of the House and cast my vote with that thought in mind. In the light of these facts, therefore, I earnestly entreat the Members of this Committee to report a bill which will immediately repeal the Taft-Hartley law and reinstate the Wagner Act. Only through such action will the laboring force of this great country be assured that we have kept our trust with them.

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