

The Mining Journal

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Labor Rift

The rupture between the leadership of the United Auto Workers (President Walter Reuther) and the AFL-CIO (President George Meany) has American organized labor as a whole worried.

Many union leaders, including some who share Reuther's view that Meany & Co. are stuffy and protective of the status quo in unionism, are dismayed with Reuther's withdrawal from leadership in the AFL-CIO and they think that it can only damage the cause of unionism in this country.

While his own Auto Workers are reported backing Reuther's position strongly, there are many members who stand more closely to Meany in their thinking than they do to Reuther.

The public reaction is pretty apt to side with Meany and to regard Reuther as "rocking the boat" and threatening an affluence and tranquility in which unionism has shared richly.

What Reuther and his top officers of the UAW did was to resign from AFL-CIO offices in protest at the way the big union is using its influence today. The UAW, with 1.5 million members, is the biggest unit of the 13.5 million member federation. It has not succeeded from the AFL-CIO and may not. That will be decided by the Auto Workers at a convention in Detroit April 20.

Reuther has been a member of the AFL-CIO executive board since the merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. He has been increasingly disenchanted with the federation and has now given up hope that by biding his time he will eventually succeed Meany as the boss of the AFL-CIO and be able to direct its support of his liberal policies.

Speculation on the results of his withdrawal from the AFL-CIO command has been a little far out on the fringes. It has included suggestions that:

1. The Teamsters (without Jimmy Hoffa) and UAW may combine. Reuther led the

drive to oust the Teamsters from the AFL-CIO on charges of corruption, and such a marriage is unlikely.

2. Reuther may pull the UAW out of the AFL-CIO and use the UAW as an agency of international liberalism and domestic social reform.

3. Reuther may stay in the AFL-CIO and build up its Industrial Union Division as a display case of his brand of expansive unionism.

The Nov. 8 national election showed that American public opinion had clipped the wings of union political power rather drastically. This result affects both Meany and Reuther, but their quarrel goes back far beyond the election and grows out of basically different beliefs about what unionism should be doing in America today.

Reuther's criticisms of the AFL-CIO, as voiced by the UAW protests, includes:

1. It has failed its responsibilities of promotion of internal reform and democracy in labor.

2. It hasn't supported government anti-poverty programs.

3. It hasn't urged labor's help in development of low cost, high quality housing.

4. It hasn't effected reform of labor-management laws to end union-busting by employers.

Reuther will have a hard time selling his brand of dynamism to an American labor force that is more interested in maintenance of its middle class affluence than in "causes." It's apt to like Meany's protectionism for his fellow workers better than Reuther's internationalism, too, although in a very different way and one which looks much farther down the road of change than George Meany is looking today.

Reuther favors more trade with other nations and has worked to organize workers abroad. The AFL-CIO has fought more trade with Communist bloc nations.

Reuther accepts labor-saving devices as inevitable and helpful, but demands that workers get a fair share of the profits they create. Meanyism would slow up the clock. Meany may win this battle, but Reuther or his fellow expansionists are apt to win the war because they propose to live with change and shape it to their purposes and Meany hopes to decelerate it.

WHAT'S WRONG?

The impression seems to be that what's wrong with the American city is the Negro. Actually, what's wrong with the Negro is what we've done to him through church, state, and nation's economy. — Ralph Ellison, author, at a Senate hearing.

Editor's Mail

(Contributions are invited. Letters should be limited to not more than 300 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication. Personal attacks on individuals will be eliminated.)

University Expansion

The purpose of this letter is to stimulate concern, establish responsibility and to enlist the city's and university's services and resources in seeking solutions to approaching problems north of the city.

Contrary to public opinion by the university, there is substantial opposition to some phases and procedures in their expansion program. We, as taxpayers, are not opposed to their expansion program but, as some of the owners, we do seriously question the devious methods of procedure being used.

The lack of concern shown by the university when the welfare and property of so many citizens is involved.

Withholding information pertinent to our financial and emotional well-being. Denial of information pertinent to our relative to their immediate needs in a residential area.

We condemn the present method of procedure as being contrary to the best interests of the individual, the community, the university and city officials have a moral obligation, if nothing else, to the citizens in those immediate areas of university expansion.

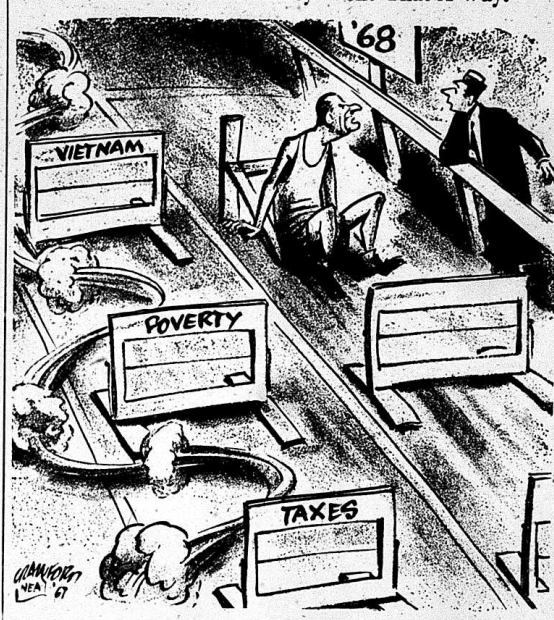
Denial of information pertinent to our relative to their immediate needs in a residential area.

We, as home owners, expect that immediately steps will be taken to insure the legal and moral protection of those directly affected.

EDWARD J. MALMGREN
105 S. Schaefer
Marquette

Inaugural And Veto

'A Fellow Named Romney Went That-A-Way!'



Andrew Tully:

Policy On Taxes

WASHINGTON — President Johnson's present policy on taxes is subject to the usual change at short notice — as to prepare the political ground in case he is forced to abandon his proposal for a six per cent income tax surcharge. Since Congress will take no action on the tax boost until April at the earliest, Johnson has nearly two months in which to arrive at his decision.

Meanwhile, the first gun in self-defense has been fired by Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler, who has given the Republicans the rough side of his tongue for charging that administration mistakes have messed up the economy. Tuning in on Fowler's sarcastic performance before a Senate-House economic

committee, the man from Mars would have concluded that everything is the Republicans' fault.

Everything, of course, would be a situation which the GOP in Capitol Hill plans to use as a major campaign issue in 1968 — inflation, high interest rates, budget deficits, taxes and the threat of a recession. It is the Republicans' premise that the economy has suffered from the administration's "day-to-day" policies of last year.

James Marlow:

Tet Coincidences

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Vietnamese lunar new year — Tet, they call it — is becoming tetra-foeset, with some strange coincidences two years apart.

Twice, just at the end of Tet, Viet Cong terrorists in South Vietnam attacked American military installations.

Twice, after this happened, President Johnson hit back fast by ordering the bombing of North Vietnam.

Twice, although not directly, Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin was involved.

In 1965 the warring sides in Vietnam called an informal truce for the lunar holiday in February.

At Tet nearest its end the Viet Cong fired mortar shells into the American airbase at Pleiku, wounding more U.S. servicemen, killing more than 100. That was on Feb. 7.

That same day Johnson ordered retaliation: North Vietnam was bombed. And this, although it wasn't realized at the time, began the U.S. air war on the Communists in the north.

North Vietnam to show some sign it wanted peace. So this raised an obvious question: Once Tet was over would Johnson continue the pause in the bombing which began with the start of Tet last week?

There was another question, too: If he resumed the bombing as soon as Tet was over, but while Wilson and Kosygin were discussing ways to peace, would the bombing wreck the talks?

Although ground fighting resumed after Tet ended Saturday night, Johnson did not let the bombing resume. But on Sunday night, just as they did at the end of Tet in 1965, the Viet Cong terrorists hit an American military installation in South Vietnam.

Mortar Shelling
This time they tried to fire mortar shells into the U.S. headquarters of Gen. William C. Westmoreland. Instead, they hit a bus loaded with South Vietnamese servicemen, 75 yards from the headquarters compound, killing nine and wounding nine others.

A few hours later Johnson ordered the bombing of North Vietnam to resume, the first in six days. But, by that time, it was learned Wilson and Kosygin had reached no solution on peace.

Side Glances
NEW YORK (AP) — Winter you alive. Is a great time to brush up on your double-talk.

There is no other reason for the year in which it is more greatly needed.

Letter From Lansing:

The Clarion Call

By RICHARD L. MILLEMAN

Of The Panax Newspapers

LANSING — When Michigan Democrats assemble in Grand Rapids this weekend to elect a state chairman, pass some resolutions and make plans to return from exile, why Zolton Ferency may enjoy the best of possible worlds.

Ferency is the incumbent state chairman. A couple weeks ago, he said he wouldn't be a candidate for the 1968 year job, because some of the wheels in the party didn't yim.

Sen. Levin dodged candidacy
So far, at least three persons have stepped forward to press their interest in the job, but none of the three is now state wide among fellow Democrats. Some others step backward, dodging a candidacy. The most notable of these fugitives is State Sen. Sander Levin of Grand Rapids and an active participant in the movement of new faces with the party. But Levin, the obvious choice of the party who didn't want Ferency, demurred.

And those who have announced for the job have slim later all the excitement of a tumbledown in an empy corral.

So who gets the endorsements from the big county local party conventions last week? Why, our reluctant old Zolton Ferency, it's almost a foregone conclusion.

To Whom Will He Be Beholden?
If the clarion call of the party continues, and Ferency modestly steps from the wings Saturday to accept the duty and to continue as its political leader, to whom will he beholden?

Certainly not to the king-making wheels who tried to roll him out of office in the first place. Instead, Ferency would be beholden to the man who drafted him, the man who insisted he was their man — who drafted him. In sense, Ferency would be home free as a bird.

And because very little happens by pure chance in at widely politics, we may be witnessing the biggest political straggle since Fowler grabbed the chairmanship in the first place. That was when most of the party wheels were attending a ming at a Grand Rapids hotel while Ferency and former (John Swainson) held the convention hall down the at scuttling Chairman of the House of Representatives of the state, and installing Ferency in his place. Ah, politics, wonderful!

The 1967 Legislature already has ordered about 2,000 to be drafted for consideration this year — about the same number as last year.

It's difficult to figure out how Michigan can get along a state with a deficit as large as we're considering \$202.5 million to change them every year. But somehow, the state must survive and perhaps we could get along even better without so many laws each year.

Gov. Romney faces a griddle no matter which choice makes in an impending political wringer.

Anticipated resignation of Allen R. Sorenson of Midland from the University of Michigan Board of Regents will result in the only Democrat now serving that prestigious body. His successor will be appointed by Romney, then will face election 1970. The board is one of the top spots in state government.

Would Raise Hackles Of Democrats

If Romney appoints a Republican, as many think he should do, it would please at least one party member — the one who vied for the job. But it would infuriate a number of Democrats who are on the board and raise the hackles of Democrats who resent how Republicans howled, with justification, when Democratic governors adhered strictly to party lines in appointing board members.

Usually in most cases where he has a choice, Romney usually appoints a Democrat, as he did in the case of the board. A Republican appointment also would erase the aura of bi-partisanship which Romney has cultivated during his three administrations.

But what if he appoints a Democrat, as some counsel? The Republican faithful will howl that Romney is ignoring it who worked for the party, disregarding party responsibility hamstringing party discipline and so forth. And what state usually appoints when his Democratic appointee comes out for election in 1970?

Although it's a case of not being able to win, which route is followed, a good bet at this point is that Romney name a Democrat to succeed Democrat Sorenson.

What lies ahead for tax reform and other Republican programs in the Legislature may be foretold by recent comments by Sen. J. Edward Kowalski of Detroit, Democratic House leader and speaker last year.

Kowalski, who works for the UAW-CIO in the office, is about as party-line as any office holder can be. His record in the Legislature is a fine record of party loyalty.

A Favorite Union Line
Kowalski claimed the Romney tax program is "not go to help anybody, except the corporations" — a favorite union line — Romney said that he was personally dedicating himself to beating Romney and the Republicans.

From the tenor of these comments, it becomes apparent that Kowalski-type Democrats will oppose anything Romney proposes mainly because he proposes it, especially in the field of taxes.

It reminds you of the way many Republican senators used to act when G. Mennen Williams was Governor.

The Republican state convention Feb. 25 in Detroit should produce the usual ultra fireworks. While the leadership Chairman Ely Peterson undoubtedly will be fully endorsed, there are some who will end up bedeviling Romney-Peterson party leadership.

And they probably will attempt to place some of their sympathizers in key district or state party posts. It should be interesting.

Hat Boyle:

Winter Double-Talk

NEW YORK (AP) — Winter you alive. Is a great time to brush up on your double-talk.

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