

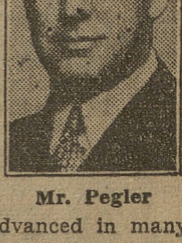
PEGLER

Columnist Says Use Of "Anti-Labor" Term Is Using Smear-Word

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

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NEW YORK.—The standard method of attack against all advocates of human freedom in American labor is the smear-word "anti-labor." This is applied to both individuals, including political candidates, and legislative proposals. The purpose of this smear is to place such persons and their proposals on the defensive when, actually, this is an attack on slavery under unionism.



Mr. Pegler

The most common proposal, advanced in many states and tentatively offered as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, begins thus:

"No person shall be denied employment because of membership in a labor union," a proviso which acknowledges the stated purpose of the Wagner Act to permit workers to bargain collectively through agents of their own choice.

Having accepted the stated purpose of the act, which is constantly flouted in practice when men and women are compelled to accept agents thrust upon them by the Government, the remedial bills then add that no person shall be denied employment or fired from a job because of refusal to join any union or resignation from a union.

That is called an anti-labor proposal. This concept of labor regards the union, itself, as labor.

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THESE remedial proposals are mild. They merely ask that aliens and convicted felons be barred from official positions in American unions, that the officials be required by law to account for the members' funds and that no political assessments shall be collected nor any portion of the regular funds be used for political purposes.

Clarence A. Barnes, the attorney general of Massachusetts, reports a typical case in which a union teamster was expelled from his union of the American Federation of Labor because he exercised his right as a citizen to testify before a committee of the legislature.

The teamster is Pasquale Lorizio, the father of five children.

"Exercising a right which I always believed was inherent," Mr. Barnes wrote, "Lorizio voluntarily appeared before the joint committee on labor and industries to advocate House Bills 827 and 828, calling for financial accountability and prohibiting political contributions by labor unions, he spoke from his heart and voiced the feelings of hundreds of his fellow union members.

"Incidentally, John M. Sullivan, the president of this union, announced during a Congressional campaign a few years ago, the purpose of his union to collect money to pay off accumulated personal debts of a New Deal candidate for Congress who then won the election.

"Because he had the courage to speak not only for himself but for those whose tongues have been silenced by the dictatorial oligarchy who refused the rank and file an opportunity for a free election, and have failed to give a satisfactory financial accounting, he (Lorizio) has now been confronted with charges and is to appear before the union kangaroo court which will most certainly strip him of his membership and deprive him of an opportunity to earn a living for himself and his family from the trade which he has followed for years."

This is part of an official statement by Mr. Barnes to the rules committee of the legislature on April 26.

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IN an accompanying letter, Mr. Barnes writes me:

"Lorizio was put on trial before the local on April 27, he was denied counsel. His witnesses were not allowed to testify nor could he cross-examine a witness against him. He asked for a stenographer and was refused. The local had its own stenographer and refused him a copy. The day after my labor bills were defeated the union made a finding expelling Lorizio from membership. Industrial slavery is in full sway in many unions now. If only political leaders would wake up to the fact that the rank and file of labor appreciate the situation and would vote for relief."

The "right to work," a slogan that has cried with great feeling when the union bosses were creating their dictatorships, is now sneered at when the individual worker mentions his right to work.

This was the union that Roosevelt selected as his primary audience in the fourth term campaign for a speech that sounded new depths of vulgarity and flippancy. Its president, Dan Tobin, gets \$30,000 a year plus personal expenses without limit and enjoys royal status, and pay-roll jobs have been provided for his sons, the princes of the royal house. A few years ago, Mr. Tobin announced that his union would spend as much money as might be necessary to elect its candidates to Congress. That these Congressmen would then represent the union, not their districts, is merely an application of the familiar charge that candidates elected by soulless corporations represent those corporations.

All efforts to correct such conditions are "anti-labor" activities.