

May 27, 1943.

Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sam:

On February 7, 1942 I sent you a telegram enclosing a copy of an editorial from the Star-Telegram which, in my estimation expressed the attitude of the American people toward the stoppages from any cause in our production for war, stating that if we cannot achieve unity of purpose to victory on the home front, how can we expect our soldiers to sacrifice their lives for victory on the battle front; and further stating that anything which delays, restricts in quantity or in any way hampers the flow of machinery and material to our forces in battle means that the war must last longer, that more American soldiers must be killed and wounded before we can win, if it does not actually lessen the certainty of ultimate victory; and further stating that when delays are deliberately engineered or concerted, it is treason and nothing else; therefore that adequate legislation should be immediately enacted to eliminate the treasonable and unconscionable sabotage against our boys in the front line trenches.

This telegram was sent to you more than fifteen months ago and still there has been no legislation definitely dealing with this kind of racket. Why should labor be permitted to strike any more than the men in the front line trenches? Labor is receiving more money in a week than the average soldier receives in a month. Still it seems Congress has not had the guts to protect the boys at the front by requiring labor to live up to the same loyal regulations required of the soldiers. No one is more friendly or has fought harder for honest, courageous labor than the newspaper which I am identified with. Meanwhile, labor has proper legislative agencies set up to assure them a perfectly square deal and incidentally, while we are on the subject, their treatment has been more liberal and generous than the treatment accorded industry. So how in the Hell are we going to win a war on the battle front when it is hard to maintain our self-respect on the home front. And also while we are on the

subject, why does not the Truman Committee, which is on an investigating crusade, include labor and the racketeering that prevails in many labor organizations. This is certainly a fertile field for constructive work and in no way would do an injustice to honest, patriotic labor. John L. Lewis has practically snapped his fingers at the President and the United States Government and told them all to go to Hell, indicating that he is bigger than the Government, and so far, this has not been disproved.

I realize that although you gentlemen are an important cog in the Governmental machinery of our country, there are no doubt many things you would like to see accomplished that may be difficult to accomplish. On the other hand, the public is getting thoroughly fed up with the continued pussy-footing on the part of Congress and the Administration in dodging the issue. We should have legislation requiring labor to work or fight. Thousands of boys are being killed daily on the various battle fronts, others reported missing in action as well as in the Axis prison camps. The ones that return will demand a proper accounting from the stewardship they left with those behind when they moved on to the front.

I apologize for piling more on your sore backs as I realize the burdens you are carrying, but I do hope you will take time to read the attached copy of my telegram to you on February 7, 1942. There is nothing new that I can add to it other than the continuation of the home front sabotage conditions which existed at that time.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

AGC:SB