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Friday, August 15, 1946

The New Airfreight Industry

The calamity bowlers who have preached that the era of new business frontiers in America was ended will find the story of airfreight an unspeakable as a fairy perdition. The birth of the airfreight industry by air-train, G.I.s seeking a new field of opportunity once more is a reminder to the pessimists that the creation of new business frontiers in America is limited only by the imagination and industry of conspicuous men with the blood of pioneers in their veins.

The postwar era found America with a well-established network of airlines carrying passengers but with slower forms of transportation—on a popular freight. Yet all over the world great armies had been supplied by air. The men who had been at the controls of great military cargo planes that flew over the oceans and the mountains realized the great commercial possibilities of airfreight. Airfreight differed an opportunity to apply to peacetime what they had learned in war.

The immediate result was that these G.I.s pooled their resources to form airfreight companies. They flew freight wherever they could find it, in whatever point the shipper wanted it to go. Thus was born America's first postwar industry and fittingly by men who wore the badge of a discharged veteran in their lapels.

No one, with accuracy, can forecast the future of airfreight, but the record established during the first year's operation provides a clue. The Independent Airfreight Association, Inc., says America's fastest form of transportation already has proved profitable to producers and distributors to whom time is money. Particularly in this time of agricultural products, fruit and vegetables, that were denied markets far removed from the soil that produced them because of the time it took to transport them. Airfreight now carries these products to new markets and creates new dividends both for the producer and America's standard of living.

In less than a year the airfreight industry has become an indispensable link in the Nation's system of distribution because a group of G.I.s believed, as did their forebears, that opportunity for business pioneers in America is not dead—and proved it.

Reuther Sky-Writing Again

That young CIO leader, Walter Reuther, who has few equals in this country in the art of double talk, tried a new one recently. With a great show of friendliness, Reuther invited all of the

top leaders of the automobile industry to meet with him to discuss the problem of lagging automobile output and see what could be done about improving it.

To people unfamiliar with the tactics of Mr. Reuther, this sounded like a mighty neighborly and progressive thing to do, especially on the part of a labor leader.

But most of the leaders of the industry could remember a few months back when Mr. Reuther made another one of his famous proposals—this one being that General Motors open its books to the public and prove that it either did or did not have ability to pay a 50 per cent wage increase. They also could remember only too well that, after the strike was over, this same Mr. Reuther admitted his "ability to pay" and "open the books" arguments in the GM strike was only a publicity stunt designed to get the corporation over the economic barrier with the public.

Reuther should not have been surprised when his latest conference suggestion did not find acceptance with most of the automobile management men. They did tell Reuther, indirectly, what they thought could be done; namely, get striking union members back to work and keep them there in the many supplier plants where stoppages are leaving the main auto assembly lines running only in fits and starts. The majority of those invited did not attend the Reuther party, and those who did said about the same thing in opening meeting that others did by writing. They told Reuther their individual troubles suggested that he do something in a direct and definite way, and in return were given by Reuther such generalized commitments as "I'll see about it" or "I'll look into it."

Secondly, post-conference phase, of the Reuther tactics consisted of demands for a Senate committee investigation of the industry, along with demands of "monopoly" and "trade restraint." At this stage the whole show seemed even more than ever a sounding board stunt, to take some of the blame for low production from the striking unions and their leadership. It was a Reuther production, directed by Walter Reuther and starring Walter F. Reuther. Box office results are lousy.

Heads and Tails

The executive board of C. I. O. has asked the President of the United States to call a conference of labor and industry leaders to consider immediate wage increases. That same thing was pulled recently was a top. When Phil Murray still cries out loud for wage increases to offset advanced living costs. Of course, the workers have suffered enough serious losses of income as a result of strikes. But these same workers are getting top wages while the employers through out the country are not getting comparable increases in prices for their products. The plants do not receive enough materials to keep the factories running full time.

Now, all these monkey-shines prior to the upsets that overtook the automobile, coal, steel and railroad organizations didn't help the national economy. There were plenty of official and un-official conferences of la-

bor and industry representatives. They were failures.

Just because there is confusion in the Government is no reason to multiply the number of cock-eyed schemes—or to apologize for prices while the OPA plays the game of "heads I win and tails you lose." If the logical requests of labor leader Murray are approved by President Truman the whole economic system of the country will be damaged. Then why should the C. I. O. try more of its rackets?

What this country needs is to get back to normal.

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

Five Market What

For years chain stores have had a widespread discriminatory bias and legislation intended to fix that bias has been introduced in the theory that would benefit non-chain stores. Such chain stores are still in effect in many states, to the detriment of the buying public.

John Smith, a great philosopher of the eighteenth century, once stated that, "To whom the market may frequently be accessible to the interest of the public; but to narrow the competition does it ways be against it, and can serve only to make the market, by raising their prices above what they naturally would be, so much, for their own benefit, an absurd tax upon the rest of their fellow citizens."

This logic has a direct bearing on anti-chain store legislation. A market can't work as a free market when a standard is provided for the buying public's economy to the consumer. Chain stores or restrictions in a dangerous weapon and a very destructive force in a free economy. There can be laws to protect the market from unconscionable trade practices which destroy legitimate competition, but legislation to cripple one business for the alleged benefit of another does not protect a free market.

Responsibility Comes With Power

In an editorial on labor legislation, Collier's recently said: "The need labor laws which will preserve the strength of the unions and their right to strike in proper cases, but which also will require them to be as responsible as they are powerful."

We can't see why a labor organization should not be liable in money damages for injuries which it would only and directly inflict on other people. . . . Corporations are liable for personal injury and property damage, and the liability of contract. Why not labor unions?

"The time has come, we think, when labor organizations, because many of them nowadays are big businesses, must be required by law to furnish periodic, detailed, independent, audited statements of their financial condition and of their assets—full accounts of who contributed how much money each year, what it was spent for, who spent it."

Unions are in a preferred position in all negotiations with industry. The executive under Wagner Act, however excellent the motives, makes that inevitable industry is bound by a rigid set of rules, and the unions, on the other hand, are virtually free to make up their own rules as they go along—and to change them at will when that seems desirable. Such a condition is unconscionable.

Every piece of legislation, no matter how moderate, which is designed to place the unions on the same legal basis as other organizations, is fought violently by labor leaders. These leaders don't see that when the public gets a bit of labor action, it will demand legislation which will really mean doing as labor laws demand—and deny any sense of the most priced rights. It is labor's drive to insist on special legislation of the type Collier's advocates. And it is in the interest of citizens to see that Congress acts.

The Much Smaller

Those who know that the device of the OPA at the end of June would result in immediate and unremitted inflation showed that labor felt in the wisdom of the American people—and in the effect of the production and distribution of the goods which were then. Prices, of course, rise in many in-

stances. This was due to a number of causes: the elimination of government subsidies—the resources simply started to pay all the costs could be passed on the time of purchase, instead of the government paying part of its living through taxes. In other cases, post OPA prices had been too low, and inflation was justified and inevitable. But in no instance did the upward price spiral go on and on without rest.

One reason for that is consumer resistance. The average American isn't a sucker. If prices for certain commodities go too high, he simply goes without them or buys substitutes.

Another reason is a rise but definite increase in supply in many basic lines. As more goods enter the free market, the opportunities for the black marketer and chisel dealer diminish. They prosper only in an economy of scarcity.

A third reason is the very fine work done by distributors, led by the chain systems, in voluntarily controlling prices, in opposing hoarding, and in keeping the largest possible stocks available at all times. Retail merchandising is contributing a lot of profit-making good.

Whatever the future of price control, we should not depend on it to prevent dangerous inflation—or a low cost until the dealer is pushed, sure and refuse debt, which is essential to a sound economy and the only permanent cure for inflation.

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Having decided to discontinue farming and have no further use for the following which I will offer at public auction on the Lane plantation, near Land's End road near Greenbelt, Md.

Wednesday, August 28, 1946
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8 Guernsey Milk Cows
1 Guernsey Bull
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1 Pair big barrel sows, 10-11 years old, work anywhere.

FARM IMPLEMENTS

1 John Deere Tractor, Model B; 1 set 12-inch John Deere plows, 1 set John Deere disc, 1 set John Deere tractor cultivator, all John Deere equipment two years old, 1 farm wagon, 1 spring back, 1 milch cow, 1 fine way milch cow and milk cow, 1 John Deere Motor 1 1/2 horse power, harness of all types and other farm equipment too numerous to mention. In interest in 40 acres of growing corn.

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