

THE STRIKE ITSELF IS NOW THE ISSUE

"There is No Right to Strike Against the Public Safety by Anybody, Anywhere, Anytime"

When that was said to President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor by Calvin Coolidge thirty-four years ago, there was no law which expressly forbade a police strike in Boston, but the absolute and inescapable truth thus stated was immediately recognized and overwhelmingly approved by the people of the entire United States. It is just as indisputably true and just as inescapable today.

The strike against the electric service of 3,000,000 people, served by the Southern California Edison Company, had it accomplished the purpose intended by those who called it, would have been much more destructive to the public safety, health and welfare than a strike against the police service.

Fortunately, the loyalty to their duty of the great majority of Edison employees prevented the widespread public disaster which otherwise would have resulted from the strike caused by deluded and reckless union leaders.

The strike is a resort to industrial war. Where public safety is seriously involved as in an electric utility, it is in no sense a legitimate or rightful weapon. It is a conspiracy both to abandon vital posts of duty and to prevent others from filling them, which effort, if successful, would immediately set in motion a chain of disastrous consequences causing fatal accidents, enormous loss of property and eventual paralysis of the community life.

Like war, a strike sets free the emotions of hatred and the constant thought and threat of violence. Men and women on strike are victimized by their strike leaders into the delusion that it is they who are abused and the "winning of the strike" becomes almost a "holy cause." The picket-line becomes a "sacred" place which no one must violate. Reason is dethroned. Although many of them expect to complete their working life with their Company, during the strike they join in a common endeavor to destroy its good-will and capacity to serve.

To have used this ugly and dangerous weapon at all against the public safety is wholly wrong and indefensible; but to make impossible demands of the Edison Company management—demands which no informed person of normal judgment should have thought management had the power or right to meet—and then to pull a strike against the public health, welfare and safety in pursuit of those demands is to go far beyond the limits of right and even of decency.

We are now convinced from much evidence that Mr. Rapattoni, the man chiefly responsible for this strike, from the very first, was determined to have his way, including the im-

position of compulsory union membership, or to call this strike. In other words, during the long four months in which he subjected the Company's bargaining representatives to so much abuse, he was not in fact bargaining in good faith. This was, of course, strongly indicated by the fact that before even starting negotiations, he insisted upon and obtained from his members authority to call a strike under the representation that he needed it to use in "collective bargaining."

Then, impossible demands both for a wholly unreasonable wage increase, and for compulsory union membership, were made, and held to, during four months of bargaining (frequently stalled and delayed by Mr. Rapattoni), despite explanation that the Company management had no right, power or authority to meet those demands. Finally, Mr. Rapattoni made the meaningless gesture that he was willing to submit his demands to the consideration of a fact-finding committee. He knew, of course, that if the Company had no right to meet his wholly impossible demands that it could not empower anyone else to consider them with a view to their possible acceptance.

Again, therefore, we repeat: The Company management cannot give that which is not theirs to give. They cannot negotiate during this wrongful strike because collective bargaining cannot be conducted under coercion. And now that Mr. Rapattoni has so clearly shown how he uses and abuses such power as he has, no one should accept the responsibility of giving him more power.

The foregoing leads unavoidably to these conclusions and this policy:

The strike is now the only issue. Until it is abandoned, and picket lines withdrawn, there can be no negotiations by the Company with Local 47, I.B.E.W., A.F.L. The Company cannot negotiate during the strike free from some coercive influence of the strike, and hence without at least appearing to accept the strike as a legitimate device in "collective bargaining."

The negotiation or collective bargaining method of arriving at a contract with Local 47, I.B.E.W., A.F.L., was repudiated, and the contract terminated, by the Union's officers, and by their resort to this strike. The two methods—on the one hand peaceful negotiation, and on the other a strike against the public safety—are mutually exclusive and cannot be merged. By their choice of the second method, and so long as they pursue it, the Union leaders have made peaceful negotiations impossible.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY



Lesson-Sermon On Spiritual Reality Sunday

How spiritual reality overcomes materiality through the healing of sickness, poverty, discord, and sin, will be pointed out in the Sunday lesson-sermon on "Reality" in all Christian Science churches.

The Golden Text from Isaiah (64:4) declares, "Since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, -O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him."

John's Gospel (14:5, 6, 19) records that when Thomas questioned Jesus, saying, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me . . . He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and I greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

"In 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' Mary Baker Eddy asks, 'How can a Christian, having the stronger evidence of Truth which contradicts the evidence of error, think of the latter as real or true, either in the form of sickness or of sin? All must admit that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and that omnipotent Truth certainly does destroy error' (p. 353).

Students Speak At Lions Club Meeting Tonight

Members of the International Lions Club will gather at the Torrance Civic Auditorium tonight to listen to three high school student speakers from the South Bay-Harbor area who will vie for the right to represent the Harbor region in the annual Lions-sponsored student speakers contest.

The students will speak on the subject: "Man's Search for Security." Eventual winner of the California-Nevada district championship will receive a \$1500 college scholarship.

The winner of the Harbor region contest tonight will participate in the area runoff which is scheduled to be held in May on Catalina Island. The area champ will compete in the finals—the district runoff—which will be held in Reno, Nev., this June.

Mary Lee Hutchinson, from Redondo Beach High School, will be one of the student speakers tonight. The other speakers had not been announced by press time.

Tonight will also be "Ladies Night" at the Lions meeting and a dinner will be held preceding the student speakers, at 7 p.m. Professional entertainment will follow the student contest.

Local Man Files Damage Suit

Claiming that his recently constructed barbecue pits, which had been guaranteed free of defects, cracked and fell apart, Ernest Snavely, 3124 W. 186th St., filed a suit for damages recently against the Angelus Builders of Los Angeles.

Attorney James M. Hall, representing the plaintiff, charged the construction company with using faulty materials and workmanship and asked that his client receive \$850 damages, the cost of constructing the pit.

The case is scheduled to be tried sometime in May, in the South Bay Municipal Court.

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