

REPORTS FROM LABOR
Tuesday, July 11
Station KRSC
Speaker: Jerry Tyler (TAPE TRANSCRIPTION)

DISCLAIMER: as previously

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We were walking down the street yesterday morning and ran into a couple of guys we used to ship with. Both men are aliens, both members of the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards. Now it happened that shortly before that we'd been reading an article about Congress recent failure to extend the Alien Warriors Act which would have permitted alien seamen ~~from~~ to continue on subsidized freighters. So we started talking to these two seamen about this deal and they pointed out how tough it was going to be for them to get a ship from now on. One of them said, in parting, the only time they want us is during a war.....and he pointed to a news headline on a paper stand nearby. We were okay during the war, he said, but during peace time they toss us in the ash can.

~~the morning~~ We got to thinking about what he'd said. Heroes during war time....in the ash can during peace years. He was right, not only about alien seamen, but about all seamen.

Long as we're speaking about war, how many of you looked at that map in Saturday's Times to see if you were theoretically dead from that theoretical atomic bombing Seattle experienced? Some people are making quite a joke about it. But it's far from funny. Because while the map, ringed with lettered circles around the two theoretical atomic explosions, only talked about buildings destroyed.....it doesn't paint the picture about the people who wander in and around those buildings earning their morning hot cakes.....nor about the women and children in those areas who would have been burned and killed in their homes.

We recall a few years back hearing one of the scientists who had worked on the atomic bomb make a speech. And we remember very vividly his words: I am a very badly frightened man, he said. I do not sleep well at night. I am terrified when I think of the ghastly form of destruction we have brought into existence.

He's a man who knows.

And we remember that newsreel that was shown around the country entitled One World....or None.

And we recall scientist after scientists, back in the days when scientists could speak up without being condemned as subversives and hounded into silence, we remember these scientists telling us that there was no such thing as a secret about the atomic bomb.

For our money, it is stupid to say that we are the only nation with atomic bombs.

And this fact should make us all stop and think. Because there is death....wholesale, blinding, almost unbelievable amounts of death in that fact. Remember, if one nation uses an atomic bomb....others may be forced to use them too to prevent total extermination.

That means world wide slaughter the likes of which we have never known. That could mean setting civilization back hundreds of years. It most certainly would mean a stunning, deadly thing to every man, woman and child in the world.

Now we fully realize that it is unpopular, especially at this time, to speak about outlawing the atomic bomb. That has been labeled a plot of the Kremlin by a lot of politicians and newspapers. But that's all right, we don't mind being unpopular. It's unpopular to ask for better wages and conditions too. And life is far more important than even wages and conditions when you come right down to it.

So we say flatly that we are in favor of outlawing the

atomic bomb. Not just in this country, but in every nation in the world. And it can be done.

If you doubt that.....how much poison gas was used in the last war? Talk to some of the veterans of the first world war. Ask them about poison gas. Or, better yet and far more educational, visit a veterans hospital where men who were gassed over thirty years ago still suffer.

Poison gas was a weapon of wholesale slaughter too. Before the war ended, gas shells were being used. And gas bombs were being perfected. Gas bombs which could have been dropped on cities, bringing agonizing death to hundreds of thousands.

The people of the world recognized how horrible poison gas could be. And they rose up en mass and they told the war makers to outlaw the use of poison gas. And because the people spoke up....probably millions are alive today who would not have been alive otherwise.

The same thing can be done today with a far more horrible weapon, the atomic bomb. We personally, have signed a petition calling for the outlawing of the atomic bomb. We didn't do it on orders from the Kremlin, ~~either~~. We did it because we didn't want our three-and-a-half year old daughter, and millions more like her all over the world, to be killed by the atomic bomb in a war which she had no part in causing.

This is serious business, this messing around with a weapon that can kill thousands of people in one blinding explosion. We don't let kids play with loaded guns. Let's don't let nations play with atomic bombs. Outlaw them. Speak up. It's better to be called names today....than blasted to bits or burned to a crisp tomorrow.

We want to get off that subject. It gives us nightmares. But you might just run your eyes over that map in Saturday's Times again. And see death....instead of just circles on a piece of paper.

~~It's a shame, and we should be punched in the nose for it,~~
but we didn't make a broadcast about Bloody Thursday.

Bloody Thursday. That's July 5th, the day when seamen and longshoremen and others all over the world bow their heads for a moment and thank those who bled and died to build maritime unions. That's the day which, 16 years ago, turned the tide in the big maritime strike of 1934. That's the day Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry were shot down in San Francisco.

We can't tell you the whole story here. We can't begin to tell you. But if you want to read as realistic, as graphic a word-picture of it as we have seen in years, get hold of a book called The Big Strike. You can get it from the Marine Cooks, the longshoremen or the warehousemen unions we know. It only costs one buck.....and after you read it, you'll understand a lot of things about seamen and longshoremen.....and labor unions in general....that you didn't understand before.

This book was written by a guy named Mike Quinn. It was written only a couple of years after the big strike, and it was written from eye-witness experience. Mike did a real job on it. The Big Strike will tell you far more about Bloody Thursday than we can.

There seems to be a few people around who still do not know what the strike of the International Woodworkers of America, CIO, against the giant Weyerhaeuser Corporation is all about. So we'll tell you.

The IWA negotiating committee, after a series of meetings with local unions and local union delegates, submitted demands to the employers, one of whom was Weyerhaeuser. One of the big demands, that is, one of the most important, was the request for a decent health and welfare plan. Not a pension plan, mind you, but a welfare plan that would protect the worker today.....

Now in the past years, Weyerhaeuser has always been the most powerful figure in the Pacific Northwest lumber industry negotiations. It has been the firm that wrote the ticket as far as the other operators were concerned. It used to suck the other firms into fighting Weyerhaeuser's battles for Weyerhaeuser. But this year things were different. This year the other


operators have made satisfactory settlements with the IWA's Northwest Regional Negotiating Committee. But Weyerhaeuser hung tough.

Weyerhaeuser hung tough against some men who know how to hang tough themselves. The result? A strike eight weeks hld now. And still solid.

The demands of the union are well within reason. They are demands that the men are entitled to, demands the Weyerhaeuser Corporation could well afford to pay. For example, during the first three months of this year, Weyerhaeuser picked up a neat profit of \$5,938,112. Compare this with their profit during the entire year of 1939, considered a good business year. They pulled about \$800,000 more profit in the first three months of this year than during the entire year of 1939. They can pay.

Now you've seen some news stories every so often about this local or that in the IWA threatening to pull a back to work move.... threatening the break the strike. But don't you worry about it. We talked to some of the active strike leaders yesterday and they told us the score. They said that here and there Weyerhaeuser had found a handfull of blue eyes, stooges, who issued some press rñleases and tried to start a back to work movement. But they were knocked all out of shape by the membership.

We're having a little trouble pinning a spokesman of the IWA down to get him to tell you the story of the strike.....and we still intend to go over to Everett and let the boys of IWA local 101 give you the lowdown....but we've been in Astoria on the fishermen's union beef, and have to go right back. As soon as we get loose from that, we'll hit for Everett and get a broadcast for you. Incidentally, we remember the fine meal we had during the convention of IWA Northern Washington District #2 a few months back. In fact, we told you about it. That meal was prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary. Well, a report has come to us that the ladies have taken over in the IWA hall in Everett, put a bunch of the boys to work and half filled the place with food. Nice going, ladies.



Speaking of this beef down in Astoria, where the National CIO boys are as busy as little beavers trying to split up a union that was founded in 1886, reminds us of a letter we've meant to read for some time now. It's a letter written to Phil Murray, President of the CIO, and Allan Haywood, Director of Organization of the CIO. This letter was written by a man named Michael Clune, a National CIO Representative. It's dated April 23, 1950. And it reads as follows:

Dear Phil and Allan: Sixteen years ago, I helped found the CIO Transport Workers Union. For the past ten years I have worked with you as CIO National Representative for Buffalo and Western New York.

During that period, when CIO did not permit raiding or union splitting, we grew to over six million members. CIO then organized, instead of disorganizing. Millions of workers got better wages, improved their working conditions and enjoyed a more secure life. CIO was not the tool of any political party, nor did we permit any differences to destroy our labor unity. When our enemies called even you and Phil a "red", you said, "if they're calling us 'reds' it means we're doing a good job."

Under your direction, we have been instructed to devote all our time, energy and CIO money to disorganizing and splitting existing organized unions....for the past six months, we CIO National Representatives have had the distasteful task of splitting unions, asking employers to cancel their contracts with other unions, collaborating to break strikes, and even engage in scab-herding, as in the case of the Leather Workers Strike in New York State.

My full time job, at your direction, has been to raid the UE at Westinghouse in Buffalo, split other unions, red-bait those who worked with us to build CIO and use other tactics the bosses have used against us for the past 16 years. Is it any wonder then, as you know, that CIO has lost three million members?

After 16 years of working together with you, I do not find it easy to leave the once great CIO. However, in good conscience I cannot devote the next few years of my life to undoing the hard work we all put into organizing with our fellow American workers for better conditions. I have concluded that it is impossible for me to serve the best interests of union men and women and at the same time carry out your union-splitting and other CIO orders. I am therefore hereby tendering my resignation, effective immediately, in order that I may again live with my conscience and honestly face the many CIO members I have worked with in the past years..

Well, Mike Clune isn't the only one who feels that way about the once-great CIO. There's lots more just like him. One of these days there will be enough.....and the CIO will again be great.....with new leadership.

Looks like our time is about up. We'll finish transcribing this, get two hours sleep and grab a plane out of here for Astoria, where the national CIO has just announced an invitation to all cannery workers in the Columbia River to join what is supposed to be known as the Columbia River Cannery and Allied Workers Local Industrial Union #1747. The real union down there, founded in 1886, and, we expect, will outlive by many years this raiding outfit, is named the Columbia River Fishermens Protective Union. It has organized both fishermen and cannery workers. But the new outfit says, we welcome fishermen, but since they are independent operators it is rather hard to see exactly how fishermen would fit into an industrial union.

Once again the merry-go-round starts. Once again the national CIO is out to split a union.

Gee, remember the good old days when CIO meant organizing workers, fighting for wages and conditions?

~~Just in passing.....the recent action of the ILMU
international executive board in calling for conferences of those unions now
in disfavor with national CIO officials.~~