

**A Look at Labor
The Political Strike**

By A. C. Tuohy

The political strike is one of the most dangerous and immoral weapons in the hands of labor unions.

A political strike occurs when workmen refuse to work, not because they have any grievance with their employers, but because they are dissatisfied with some political policy of the government.

It is dangerous because it is an abuse of power conferred on labor unions by economic necessity. It is immoral because labor unions are economic, not political, bodies.

THE COMMUNISTS have used the political strike as an instrument of revolution.

In France the workers have struck in order to bring about the downfall of the legitimate government. In Italy the workers have struck in order to influence a political election.

In other European countries the Communists have used their power in labor unions to intimidate the heads of states, to prevent political appointments, to forestall legislation.

The American Labor Movement has never sanctioned the political strike. It has refused consistently to use its economic power for political ends.

AMERICAN UNIONS have recognized a distinction between the economic and the political sphere. They have not hesitated to strike when economic justice was at stake, but they have recognized that strikes have no justification outside of that sphere.

Organized labor in this country was violently opposed to the Taft-Hartley Act. Yet not one legitimate American union called a strike in protest.

In many European countries, the Communist unions would have seen that the whole economy would have been upended rather than witness the likes of a Taft-Hartley Act become law.

Organized labor in this country believes with other Americans that political wrongs must be cured by political means.

The ballot, petitions, political pressure upon Congressmen, propaganda, are all legitimate ways of changing political policy.

THE POLITICAL STRIKE is not so legitimate. Nor is it American.

The International Longshoremen's Association-AFL in the past few years have engaged in political strikes.

Members of this union have refused to load ships whose cargo was destined for Yugoslavia. They have gone on strike rather than assist Marshall Tito. Regardless of how much one may sympathize with the aims of these strikers, their strike is political, and, as such, must be condemned.

IF THE LONGSHOREMEN are interested in altering the political policy of our government

which permits ships to be sent to Yugoslavia, then there are countless political devices which may be used to accomplish that end.

The end does not justify the means even where the Communists are involved. It is unfortunate that an anti-Communist union should borrow a Communist trick to fight the Communists. And that is what the longshoremen are doing.

If a Communist union refused to load ships bound for the "Marshall Plan" countries, we would be up in arms. There is no reason why we should not be similarly perturbed when the shoe is on the other foot.

Secularists are constantly teaching our people that anything goes as long as the intention is right. This is the philosophy which justifies divorce, birth control, sterilization, mercy-killing, and the rest of the sins committed in the name of humanity. If the political strike is wrong for the Communists, it is wrong for us too.

Bishop To Deny Sacraments To Remiss Parents

Birmingham—NC—The decision of the United States Supreme Court outlawing religious education classes associated in any way with public schools and the fact that Catholic educational facilities in the diocese have greatly increased, have prompted Bishop Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile to issue a pastoral letter voicing the slogan, "Every Catholic child in a Catholic school," and stating that the diocese will do its best "to see that it is carried out."

Bishop Toolen reiterates and re-emphasizes the general law of the Church as regards the education of Catholic children and the diocesan law requiring refusal of the sacraments to all parents who without proper permission "do not send their children to our Catholic schools."

"In the Catholic School first things will be placed first," Bishop Toolen writes. "We are well equipped in most sections of our diocese to take care of our children. I would particularly call the attention of our Catholic people of Birmingham to the John Carroll High School built at the cost of over a half million dollars that offers to every high school child in Birmingham an education equal to any other school in the district plus God. We will not easily excuse parents in this district."

National Pastime's 'Ball and Chain'

Baseball's 'Reserve Clause' Makes Player Mere 'Chattel', Says Priest

The author, himself an enthusiastic baseball player, made a thorough study of the moral aspects of the baseball contract. His conclusions are contained in the following article reprinted from "America," national Catholic weekly magazine.

By REVEREND FRANCIS A. MOORE, S. J.

Baseball is called the great American game. As a game it is great, captivating millions of Americans; but as a business, professional baseball in some of its aspects is neither

those interested in this problem must realize that playing ball day after day is hard work, particularly under a sweltering sun. Bill Werber once said: "It should be called 'working ball.'" Salaries are usually far below what the public imagines, and in the minor leagues are frequently a mere pittance.

UNDER BRANCH RICKEY, some players on what some sports writers call the Cardinal club gang received \$25 a week. The game uses the best years of a man's life, years in which otherwise he would be establishing himself in a business or profession. Half the season the player is on the road, carrying a suitcase in one hand and dishing out tips with the other.

And we must not identify professional baseball with only sixteen major league teams, whose players ordinarily do not suffer greatly; but forced to sign this reserve clause contract are the players of 24 AAA-league teams, 16 AA-league teams, 26 A-league teams, 68 B-league teams, 112 C-league teams and 190 D-league teams. Adding them all up, they represent no insignificant gathering of American working men.

WHILE CONDEMNING the injustice of the contract, we face the question: could baseball survive without using the reserve clause? AN EXECUTIVE of an American League team once wrote: "The reserve clause has always been a real source of argument for and against; but I do think that if there was no reserve clause we would not have any baseball, as players would go from one club to another each year." Certainly they would move if management did not provide working conditions good enough to entice them to remain in their present employ.

It does not appear obvious, however, that baseball owners would not be able to retain the services of their employees just as all other American employers do, namely, by providing a just salary and suitable working conditions. Thinking they must chain down their players to hold them, league owners must either lack faith in their ability to satisfy their men or else have a perverted notion of the nature of a ball player.

Players are not aimless transients; they would not move from team to team just for the pleasure of moving. They need a reason and, if they are given a better reason for staying than for moving, they will stay. GIVEN THEIR CHOICE of clubs, most young men would play with a team in their home town or nearby. Or an out-of-town boy will settle down where he's playing. If he knows the club cannot ship him around arbitrarily, he'll buy a home and raise a family. If he's ambitious, perhaps he'll oversee a small business or hold a partnership in a

firm, and become an adopted son of the city. A line-up of "home-town boys" pulls the customers through the turnstiles. The fans are loyal to their own kids, just as small-town citizens continue to patronize a chain store moves in with its own personnel and lower prices. Very likely the club rosters would undergo less change each year without the reserve contract than they do now when players are moved at the whim of the owner instead of at the desire of him who has to move.

AN OBJECTION arises to the effect that, with the deletion of the reserve clause, the wealthier clubs would attract all the top talent, making the pennant races uneven. The answer is that, in the first place, money talks in any language. Even in the present system, the money teams as a general rule have the best clubs, using their wealth to lure youngsters into the fold, to purchase players from other clubs, to buy farm teams that produce talent. In any industry, successful businessmen attain buying power beyond the capacity of their lesser rivals, as the natural result of their financial risk and their greater business acumen. The unthinking defender of baseball's slave system throws up



'WHITEY' KUROWSKI He had a wife and three children . . .

grievances that would involve the precise point of the reserve clause.

When the American League was first formed, Connie Mack talked Napoleon Lajoie into jumping his three-year contract with the Phillies. In the ensuing court battles the Supreme Court of Missouri and New York favored Lajoie. The Court of Pennsylvania dissenting. But the Justices didn't even get around to considering the reserve clause; the point argued was whether Lajoie was bound to play three years under a contract that gave his owner the right to fire him on ten days' notice with no reciprocal right on the part of the player.

It is too bad that those courts or some since did not get around to investigating the far more insidious aspects of the reserve clause. Let Clark (The Fox) Griffith prove his claim that the reserve clause has legal sanction.

ONCE THE PLAYERS are nicely shackled, the owners' power of legislating to their own benefit is practically unlimited. It is almost nauseating to read the orator's Blue Book. In it such legislation as the draft law, according to which a Triple-A minor league club can retain the services of its star pitcher for three years, even though an opponent major league team would double or treble his salary if they could hire him.

Commissioner Chandler, who draws his authority and salary from the vote of the owners, may determine that the "best interests of the game" which can



TED WILLIAMS Should have the same right as stenographers . . .

his hands and cries that without the reserve clause the Yankees would sign up Ted Williams and Stan Musial to flank Joe DiMaggio in the outfield, making the pennant race a runaway. But would they—or could they?

WHERE THE SUPPLY is less, the demand is greater. Williams and Musial are smart enough to realize they are worth more to Boston and St. Louis than they are to New York.

In fact, it is not fantastic to believe the teams are less on a par now than they would be without the use of the present contract. Many wise players would figure it advantageous to play for a poorer club in which their services would be more appreciated, realizing that the club would improve, attendance would increase and salaries rise. Especially would we witness such a migration among players who ride the bench because they are slightly inferior to men playing their position and are retained as "accident insurance." These realize that they improve only by playing.

MOREOVER, erasing the reserve clause would mean a step to the selling of players, an effect that would equalize the bargaining power of the clubs. Today a poor club without a farm system can usually improve itself only by purchasing at enormous prices from other clubs the right to employ a player. Frequently this purchase turns out to be a bad investment. Without the reservation in their contract, players would be free agents, and the money which poorer clubs now use to buy players could then be expanded to entice players into their employ by the American practice of paying a good salary and providing suitable working conditions.

A QUEER BUSINESS, this buying and selling of players! Sam Breadon paid \$75 to sign the two Cooper brothers, let them win games for him several years at mediocre wages, then sold them for \$235,000. Where did Breadon's right to that money come from? He paid the Coopers a salary, they more than repaid him by their services. Other employers should have the right to hire the Coopers by the normal process of making them a better offer. That's the way the industries operate.

DOWN THE DRAIN with the reserve clause would go the effectiveness of the farm systems owned by the major league teams. No tears need be shed over this, because the present ar-

Pope To Address 500,000 Youth

ROME (NC) — Two anniversary celebrations of Italian Catholic Action are expected to bring about half a million young people from Italy and foreign countries to the Eternal City during the course of September. During celebrations, His Holiness Pope Pius XII will address a message to the youth of the world.

The first observance, representing the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Italian Catholic youth groups, will be held from September 4 to 6. It is expected to bring about 250,000 Catholic young women to the city.

The second observance will be the 80th anniversary of the masculine section of Italian Catholic youth, which will be held from September 10 to 12 and is expected to bring a quarter million young men to Rome.

Fifty-four nations have been invited to participate in the observances. The program will include athletic, cultural and religious activities. Highlights of the celebrations will be midnight Mass and general Communion. Arrangement makes a farce of every minor league pennant race.

The parent club can, at any time, send down enough talent to win the pennant; it becomes a question of which management wants its minor league team to win. Occasionally the moguls let an independently owned team carry off the so-called honors—an unnatural setup to tout off on a public that likes its competition legitimate!

PLAYERS SHOULD WORK under the same arrangement as that given baseball managers and coaches. When the term of Joe McCarthy's contract expires, Tom Yawkey can rehire him or not; McCarthy can sign again or not, just as he wants.

Ted Williams should have the same privilege. After all, that is only giving Williams the same right enjoyed by the stars in other sports.

If every other form of industry can maintain stability of personnel without the ball-and-chain method, baseball can duplicate the feat.

Minor difficulties would have to be ironed out, but organized baseball has a genius for legislation and, if forced to, would find a way to obviate all obstacles to the continued prosperity of baseball—prosperity for the owner and the player.

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