Baptists To Have Fathers' Program

Father's day services at the Baptist church will be observed Sunday with two great programs which will include special music and sermons. Each father who enters the church will be given an appropriate flower by flower committee composed of men and women.

At 11 a.m. Dr. A. F. Johnson, pastor, will speak on the theme, "The Grand Old Man." He speaks at 8 p.m. on "He-Men, Wanted."

New members are to be received after each serman Sunday. Workers have the hope of an encouraging number coming for membership. Baptists living in Birmingham and vicinity who wish to belong to a Bible church with a program are invited to join.

Special attention is being called to the B.Y.P.U. program for 7 p. m. Sunday when juniors, intermediates, seniors and adults are to take part.

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Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

By GENE ALLEMAN
Michigan Press Association

LANSING—Dizzy and agog after a hectic labor "holiday" that paralyzed the state capital city and a power strike that put an industrial center into inky idle darkness, Michigan employers and employees alike are wondering this week what the state legislature is going to do.

Adjournment will be midnight Friday, June 25—or until solons finish their tasks while the clocks are turned back.

The labor relations bill, drastically revised by the House, is before the upper chamber. While organized labor has come out in opposition to a clause giving the governor power to cope with "extraordinary situations," like the Saginaw power shutdown, employers are pointing out that the revised bill would permit unauthorized strikes as well as authorized strikes without advance notice and without requirement of reasonable efforts at mediation.

Gone from the governor's original bill were such anti-strike features at the clause forbidding employees "to declare or engage in any concerted activity in the nature of a strike in relation to any demand, grievance, or other matter, (1) without first having exhausted every method of voluntary agreement and negotiation provided by this act, and then giving — days written notice to the employer and the board of the demand, grievance, or other matter in dispute, or (2) during a period not exceeding — days while the matter in dispute is pending before the board or a special board of mediation as herein provided for."

U. S. Mediation Act

Employees would have retained the right to strike, but this privilege would have been available only after they had made reasonable efforts to mediate differences with the management.

In 1934 the Roosevelt administration created by act of congress a National Mediation Board for the railroad industry. The railroad labor act, under which the board functions, requires advance notice of an employees' strike, giving the mediation board a limited period of time in which to settle the disagreement. Result: No railroad walkouts—no lost wages.

At Washington came a demand by Senator Royal Copeland, New York Democrat, that the Senate conduct a sweeping investigation of labor troubles and weigh carefully the merits of the railroad mediation plan.

Folly of Hasty Action

Illustration of how temper can cause an unnecessary labor strike was seen in the C. I. O. power shutdown at Saginaw. John Lewis, C. I. O. chieftain, declared that the whole thing was a "mistake." Governor Murphy's calm peaceful disposition was even ruffled slightly, declaring "such a strike should never have been called."

Even the Lansing C. I. O. "holiday" earlier in the week brought an admission from Homer Martin, U. A. W. leader, that it, too, was a "mistake."

The Lewis and Martin statements were interpreted as a tacit confession that the C. I. O. had overplayed its cards at Lansing and Saginaw with respect to public opinion.

In the meanwhile, other strike clouds are gathering in industrial centers in Michigan. More strikes appear to be inevitable.

From Governor Murphy came this comment. "The working people have been generally right in asserting their rights. Some times they have overstepped. But I have learned that they can be led into doing the right thing, without suppressing their civil liberties or using force . . . The labor movement is going in the direction of responsibility on the part of labor, employees and government."

Taxes Again

Under terms of an unemployment compensation passed by the senate and sent to the house, employers of less than eight persons would be exempted from a Michigan tax. The present law grants $6,000 exemption to all employers. The senate set-up conforms with the federal requirement.

Of tax interest also was a declaration by Governor Murphy that the legislature should keep within the $104,000,000 budget and pare down appropriations that threaten a $20,000,000 deficit unless additional taxes are imposed.

Senator George McCallum suggested a straight income tax with no exceptions as a constitutional way to raise more money that the state apparently is going to spend.

Civil Service

At one time proclaimed as the "A-1" reform measure of the administration, the civil service bill, passed by the senate, was due for action in the House this week. The bill would "blanket in" all present state employees and would give department heads the right to choose from three candidates one to fill a future vacancy. Governor Murphy gave his blessing.

State employees—and there are about 13,000 of them—would have been excluded from a hour-limit bill for women and minors that was widely amended in the senate and was finally voted down. The 48-hour week proposal wound up with these exclusions: Restaurants, hotels, bathhouses, stores with less than ten employees, farms, dairy industries, and persons earning $35 a week or more.

One Week More

One more week remains before the weary legislature, in session nearly six months, votes to adjourn sine die.

Organized pressure groups, represented by well-functioning lobbyists, are frantically at work day and night hurrying pet measures towards enactment and smothering inimical ones in committees. It is a time when bad legislation is slipped through; good bills are forgotten.

"The 1937 legislature has been confronted with many, many grave problems," observed one veteran law-maker. "If we can solve only a few of them, our record will be worth all the effort."

Miscellany

Michigan children are to be offered a chance to show their appreciation of the $20,000,000 donated by the late United States Senator James Couzens for the care of under-privileged and crippled children of Michigan. At a meeting to be held June 24 at Traverse City, sociologists, educators, and physicians will gather to plan a Couzens Memorial. The plan was instigated by Congressman Albert J. Engel, of Lake City, and has the approval of the Couzens family. What form the Memorial will take is undecided, but it will be financed with the pennies donated by Michigan schoolchildren.

The BOOK SHELF

Late Book Reviews *and* Literary Criticism

by Doris Flint

"THEY CAME LIKE SWALLOWS"
—William Maxwell (Harpers)

When a writer can recapture the imaginings, the joys and fears of youth and present them without the usual exaggerations of memory he has a power of insight which is rare indeed. Mark Twain had it, always; Booth Tarkington sometimes. Many people thoroughly understand the psychology of children but it is another thing to be able to choose the proper incidents to portray the characters in an honest light.

William Maxwell, in his latest book shows this rare ability. It is a simple, straight forward story of family life, taking place entirely within the home and presented through the eyes of the two sons and the father. The most important character is Elizabeth, the mother. The first third of the story is Bunny's, the puny eight year old son; the second is Robert's who is thirteen and the last is Mr. Morison's.

When Bunny is told by his mother that they are expecting a baby in the family he is hostile and begs his mother to think better of it; Robert is old enough to be embarrassed. Bunny and his mother are very close and he fears that a baby will spoil their nice times together.

It is in the fall of 1918 when the flu is raging and Bunny is the first to come down with it. He is very sick but recovers just before it is necessary for his mother to leave for the hospital in Decatur (She is advised by her doctor to go to a specialist there). James goes with her to be near her and the boys are packed off to Aunt Clara's, a place where they dislike very much to go. Robert becomes ill with the flu while there and through questioning his Aunt Clara learns the worst about his mother.

Both James and Robert blame themselves for Elizabeth's death; James because he took her on the wrong train and Robert because he allowed her to come into Bunny's room when he was sick with the flu but Irene, Elizabeth's sister, saves the day by talking them out of the notion.

James is simply lost without Elizabeth; thinks he cannot bear to keep house or the children; makes all plans to send them back to his sister Clara's; changes his mind when he sees little Bunny staring at him with Elizabeth's eyes.

This is the kind of book that cannot help but make one better for the reading of it. Its tenderness will appeal to the most fastidious reader.

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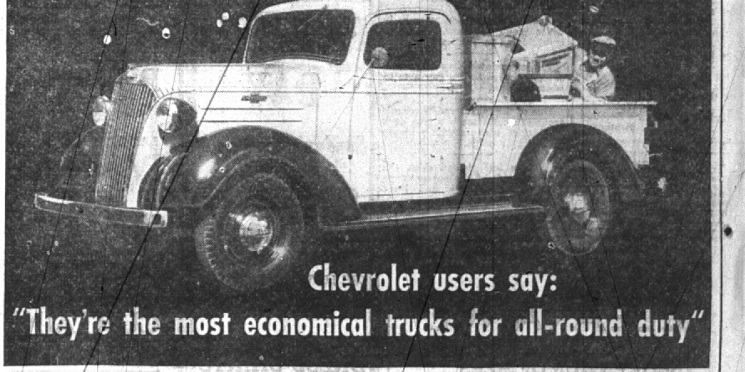

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