

Striking One Mean All Three?

Ever since Walter P. Reuther and the UAW have dealt with the automobile industry, the leverage gained by the union in striking only one of the "Big Three" at a time has been Reuther's successful strategy. This device, it is openly admitted, utilizes the fierce forces of the desire for survival, and causes a business more easily to capitulate to the union's demands.

Thus, by striking one company the other two are in temporary positions to sell more of the buyers' market. Finally, of course, when the struck company comes to the union's demands for wage increases and numerous fringe improvements, the same general economic demands are met by the remaining portions of the auto industry.

This pattern, of course, then sets the scale for a good deal of other segments of American economic life.

THE PRESENT UAW-AUTO Industry situation, however, is unlike past negotiation conditions, inasmuch as none of the "Big Three" have agreed to contract changes from those contained in the ones that expired three months ago. The union's employees have continued to work without a contract.

General Motors, Chrysler and Ford have agreed only to renew the expired contract terms. The UAW openly and rigidly demands numerous economic increases. The union has declared its members are ready to strike to get these demands.

What will happen? Will the "Big Three" suffer the striking of only one company, at first—full well knowing that, later, whatever increases the union gets from the struck company will be levied against them... or else they too, will be struck?

REUTHER AND THE UAW boastfully declare their present intentions to follow

the established past pattern of striking: FIRST ONE COMPANY, THEN OTHERS LATER!

Ultimately then, at least two of the companies will be facing a DEFERRED STRIKE. The only difference between a "deferred" and a "manifest or actual" strike would be the matter of time. Either pattern provides the "leverage" successfully used by the UAW in the past.

So we are wondering just what will the final outcome of this periodic struggle be? Will it be a "repeat performance"? An analysis of the situation suggests that the "Big Three" probably won't accept Reuther's radical demands.

Will they all cease to produce automobiles, in the event one company alone is struck?

This method, if used, might be labelled a "lockout" by the UAW. We don't know the extent to which such a "lockout" is subject to state and/or federal laws. But this we do believe:

IF THE ENTIRE AUTOMOBILE industry does plan to close down in case only one company is struck, would it not be best public relations to announce their intentions IN ADVANCE?

In such an event, would not a statement "before the act" stand up better, both with union rank and file employees, the general public, and with the government itself?

Only time will tell, perhaps. Yet it seems to us that the automobile industry (and most of the rest of economic America) stands where the early Colonists once stood at Lexington and Concord.

Those early Americans refused any longer to suffer the various conditions imposed upon them by King George III. It may be that today's Americans will no longer suffer the various conditions being demanded from them by King Walter I.

every tax item that is included in the selling price? This information would astound the average citizen. It could cause Congress to reduce taxes, too.

If you refuse to believe that freedom is esteemed as a cheap commodity, just reflect upon the rapid switch of the United States from the applied economic philosophy of free, competitive enterprise, to the present quasi-socialistic policies that motivate so much of federal and state governments. This condition recalls that old maxim: "You never miss the water until the well runs dry."

Our Library of Congress contains about ten million books and pamphlets. In spite of this, much ignorance continues to find its way into Congressional legislative processes.

(Trans: "What Means Brooklyn?")



NATURE NOW State Pines Important To Both Past, Future

by Lydia King Prehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economist

Driving northward from Standish toward West Branch the nature-conscious traveler will notice that the deciduous trees gradually give way to the evergreens. This area marks the beginning of Michigan's sandy pine planes.

Among other evergreens this soil supports our three native species of pine: Jack, red and white. The last named is classed as our most beautiful. Furthermore, there is no tree in our American flora that surpasses it in sturdiness and usefulness. It kept Michigan in the lead in lumber production from 1870 to 1890 when it grew in great stands across the middle belt of our lower peninsula. The Hartwig pines are a remnant of this once great forest.

THE WHITE pine often shared living space with the red, pine. The two are easily differentiated; the former has dark grey bark and bears its leaves in a fine-needled cluster, the latter has reddish bark and is two-needled. Air pines are anchored trees with primitive leaves, flowers and seeds. They appeared many thousands of years before our hardwoods. This still an ancient tree, the May sun warms the forest; the male blooms of the white pine form a small cone like clusters at the ends of the branches. In the meantime the female cones, arranged in a cone-like cluster, appear farther back on the branch. At the height of the blooming season the scales of the female cone open briefly to be fertilized by the wind-borne pollen. They then close while a pair of winged seeds begin to grow at the base of each scale.

BY THE END of the second autumn this rudimentary female flower has matured into the familiar brown cone. In the meantime most of the seeds have escaped. They are called "naked" because they are not enclosed in a fruit. In colonial times it was a common sight to see the white pine

towering 150 feet above the forest floor. One of these giants with a girth of 18 feet still stands in the vicinity of Marquette. In a crowded forest the largest branches form a feathery crown but when allowed to stand alone they spread out to form a tree which is unsurpassed in its individual symmetry.

The needles of the pine are leaves and perform the same functions as do the leaves of the deciduous tree. Through their pores the tree breathes and gives off moisture. By the same process photosynthesis their manufacture food for each year's growth.

THE ANCIENT pines had their beginning in the arid period preceding the temperate one. Their advantage, conserving moisture and making a more hardy tree. This still an advantage, allowing our present day pines to grow in a wide range of soil, climate and altitude. During the 300 years of its exploitation the white pine more than any other tree has built our nation. It made the masts of hundreds of ships, it covered the forests of New England, it provided billions of shingles on millions of houses that reached out to span the mid-west. Its wood is light but compact, straight-grained and easily worked. Its versatile ways and its long-lasting qualities have stood the test of time.

THE WHITE pine is widely used in Michigan's present day reforestation program, which must answer man's need for beauty and protection in addition to producing the necessary raw materials for industry.

With proper management our future forests can also represent stored capital. At the same time they can provide an annual income for both citizen and state.

lines and pulled the maddened beast to a standstill. Great applause. The horse belonged to Louis Haas.

"Some of the recent acts of vandalism are: Stripping the bark from the birch trees in the cemetery. Breaking the tops of hydrants in cemetery. Cutting the trees where a seat was placed for the public comfort. Stripping and breaking the beautiful weeping willow on the park. These things might be helped if mothers and fathers would know what their children are doing."

30 YEARS AGO August 23, 1928 "Work is to start on Birmingham's new post office within a few days, it was learned by The Economist yesterday from post authorities in Detroit. The building is at 210 north Woodward avenue, it will be a one-story brick affair, more than twice as large as the present post office."

Work is soon to start on the construction of storm sewers to serve Dorchester and Pierce streets, following the award by the village commission Monday night of contracts to the Bradley & McDermott company.

15 YEARS AGO August 19, 1943 "A reader asks is there no ceiling price on baby carriages. Through an error, the price on one last week was quoted in the classifieds at \$10,000. A little sleep, even for these times!"

"Dr. W. Glen Harris, who was laid up for five weeks with the mumps, will preach Sunday and then go on a six-week leave. He expects to do some preaching at Army Camps en route. Only a Texan would want to go to Texas in the summer time."

Theatre in any form we know it began in the dramas of ancient Greece. Earliest of these were the Dionysian "Bacchals" in which the principal attraction was a singing and dancing chorus of fifty men.

In a musical revue—various follies, frolics, scandals and vanities whose kinship to "Revels" is obvious—as many chorus girls prance on stage considerably less than half-did in barbers' (c) 1956 John Emery Ent. Inc.)

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Some people are capable of holding on to a grudge until they have repaid, in kind, the licking they have taken from another. Said licking may take one of a wide assortment of episodes. Aren't some nations, too, hanging on to old grudges, just biding the time when they can again go to war against their latest vicious enemy?

Here's a quite illuminating observation, made by a U.S. Navy man: "Believe it or not, the dimmest lights have the greatest scandal power!"

Why not start a campaign to have Congress require that most kinds of commodities sold in the U.S. carry a tag showing

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham City Commissioner Florence Willett, since her election to the commission two years ago, has spoken to several local clubs about her municipal life and views.

She likes to compare community life with a family's relationships. "Your particular community is like your own family," she says. "It's subdivisions or neighborhoods are the children. Established communities are like the parents—pretty well established, with

solid backgrounds, regular methods and habits," she says.

"OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITIES are the new subdivisions and neighborhoods. These are the growing children, who cling to the skirt or trouser leg of the parent for assistance and protection. "Then further away are the other established communities—the older relatives.

"Like a good family, we all need to cooperate, to share responsibility for solving our common municipal problems.

"That is what is being evidenced in the southeast Oakland area, I'm happy to emphasize. Our garbage and rubbish, our water, our sewer interceptor problems are being handled by authorities—the combination of communities to solve a mutual problem.

"BUT LIKE ALL FAMILIES, sometimes the children or relatives get out of line—like Troy and Southfield on the 12 towns interceptor solution, or Troy on the landfill site for the rubbish authority. Like Madison Heights on the Red Run drainage problem.

"But like all good families, we will weather these disagreements."

Suburban Sentiment

SPACE AGE
Lean years ago when they lived in a flat,
Each always knew where the other was at;
Now in their mansion they seldom meet.
For each has acquired a private suite.
—Dorothy Rockwell McWood

WHY?



Do We Have Chorus Girls?
Theatre in any form we know it began in the dramas of ancient Greece. Earliest of these were the Dionysian "Bacchals" in which the principal attraction was a singing and dancing chorus of fifty men. In a musical revue—various follies, frolics, scandals and vanities whose kinship to "Revels" is obvious—as many chorus girls prance on stage considerably less than half-did in barbers' (c) 1956 John Emery Ent. Inc.)