

Senator:

5/15/52

This is a copy of your
Press Release at the Steelworkers
Convention.

J. Tomayko
Cons. Secy.

10:00 A.M.
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SIXTH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF THE UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

I know of no organization that has contributed more to the welfare of the American people and the strength of our Nation, both in peace and in war than the officers and membership of the United Steelworkers of America. The steelworkers have been in the forefront of the struggle against Communism here at home and the Communist conspiracy throughout the world. The record of the steelworkers is one of action and deeds, not one of words and platitudes. Freedom loving people everywhere know that free American labor has been a bulwark against the forces of Facism and Communism.

The American people have recently been exposed to a propaganda campaign of misrepresentation and outright falsehood. The press, the radio and other means of communication have carried the message of the steel companies in their frantic effort to mislead the American people concerning the truth and the facts in the present steel controversy. It has been my privilege as a member of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee and as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Labor and Labor-Management Relations to listen to hours and days of testimony concerning the steel dispute and witnesses from Government, industry, labor and the public have come before our Committee to present their views and to be cross examined. Every aspect of the steel dispute has been examined. Prices, profits, wages, working conditions and the recommendation of the Wage Stabilization Board. These and other factors have been examined in detail and the facts are now available to the public. These facts tell but one story. They reveal the truth in this critical steel dispute between the steel industry and the steelworkers. These facts are as follows:

1. The steel industry refused to engage in good faith honest collective bargaining.
2. The steel companies refused to make a sincere offer to settle this dispute

until the Wage Stabilization Board came forth with its recommendations. The steel companies were determined to force the hand of Government rather than to settle these economic and non-economic issues in the traditional American pattern of collective bargaining. The steel companies demanded of the Government an exorbitant price increase even before they would talk of wages and working conditions. This is a complete denial of legitimate collective bargaining. The representatives of the steel companies have indulged in a campaign of propaganda and misrepresentation which has as its purpose to undermine and wreck the stabilization program. The steel companies have entered upon a concerted campaign to hijack the Government into an unwarranted price increase as the price of a settlement in this dispute case. The representatives and the propaganda of the steel companies have been directed towards undermining public confidence of an established agency of our Government - the Wage Stabilization Board. The steel industry is attempting to take advantage of a critical international situation and the demands of our National security by forcing both the Government and the workers to yield to their demands. This represents a type of economic blackmail which is beneath the dignity of free American enterprise.

Make no mistake about it. We are now witnessing the fulfillment of a great strategy to destroy price control, wage stabilization and the anti-inflation program of the Nation. This represents placing greed above National need. It is a power play by big industry in collusion with the reactionary leaders in the American political scene to kill once and for all the liberal gains of the past 20 years. The issues before the people of this Nation ~~is~~ are clear. It is this - are we to return to the situation which prevailed in this country prior to the time of our late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Are we to permit American Government to fall into the hands of those powerful economic corporate interests which once before brought this Nation to its

knees. Make no mistake about it, the attempts of the steel industry to destroy the stabilization program are a part of a general attack upon social welfare legislation and the liberal progressive objectives of the new deal and the fair deal. There is only one answer - the people of this Nation must know the issues. They must understand that these same corporate interests have been profiteering at the expense of the American people through special interest taxation and tax loopholes. They have amended and watered down the stabilization program to a point where it is seriously weakened. They have joined with the real estate lobby. in stopping the construction of low cost housing to a trickle. These are the same interests which in some parts of America joined with the Dixiecrats in the abuse of civil rights and economic^o operation. These are the same interests that pushed through the Tidelands Oil Bill, the greatest public steal since the time of Teapot Dome.

The election of 1952 may well determine whether or not ~~this~~ American labor is to have the rights of free collective bargaining. It will determine whether or not taxation shall be based on the principle of ability to pay or whether or not the American consumers will be saddled down with a Federal Sales Tax. It will determine whether or not we are to utilize our national resources for the public welfare or the private utilities. The election of 1952 may well determine whether the housing of our people is to be the special prerogative of the real estate lobby. This election represents a critical point in American political and economic progress. It is a choice between privilege and people - special interest and public welfare. The working people of America, particularly those in organized labor have a great responsibility-not only must we vote, but we must vote with a full understanding of the issues.



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