

May 17, 1946

TO: Mr. Thurston

Attached is a suggested draft of reply. There is something incongruous about asking the Government to guarantee higher wages for picketing duty.

KBW

April 9, 1946
Osborn, Ohio.

Marriner S. Eccles,
Chairman Federal Reserve Board,
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Eccles-

In reference to your statements on present and coming labor strife.

It is my belief that the unfair practices of labor can be greatly curtailed if the present labor laws are amended to protect the rights of workers against unscrupulous labor leaders.

The financial damage done to a worker and his family during a short ~~a~~ prolonged strike can never be repaired by the pittance they receive while on strike nor by the meager gains they receive when a strike is terminated.

Union officials harang the workers into striking and then force them to participate in strike activities for a salary which is frequently less than most states grant their indigent citizens. This is in flagrant violation of the present labor laws and against all that labor has fought for in the past. Strikers are illegally exploited by the unions. They are compelled to put in an eight hour day of work for the union while on strike. If they do not do so they are fined or ousted as undesirable members. The salary paid the striker does not vary to suit his individual needs, namely the size of his family. This is to me the cruelest kind of unlawful exploitation ever inflicted upon a helpless citizen by any group for which our labor laws came into being.

To curb this lawlessness I suggest that the government act at once to consider the following salaries for union members on strike.

- 1- That unions must pay all strikers a salary equal to that received by them from the company against whom they are striking.
- 2- Or the unions must pay a salary to the striker equal to that which the Unemployment Compensation Laws grant him.
- 3- Or the unions must pay a striker not less than the federal or state labor laws allow. If no laws exist, federal or state legislation should be enacted to cover same.

Unions scream about the poll tax laws in some states but to my way of thinking, union dues and entrance fees are frequently just as obnoxious to fair minded people. Laws should be passed to govern the initiation and entrance fees and the monthly dues. That is to govern the maximum amount which can be charged.

There should be no~~w~~ closed shops anywhere, even if the workers themselves vote for the same. No matter which way a person looks at a closed shop it comes under the heading of unfair business practice. And if our courts would challenge the closed shop and the rights of a worker to join or not as he so chooses, they will find that the Constitutional Rights of good Americans is being indecently abused by present union activities. Also union closed shops and the exclusion of workers from unions who wish to become members, creates a labor monopoly. It cannot rightly be called by any other name. We have laws to protect us from business monopolies and the time is ripe to curb and protect our citizens from labor monopolies. In so doing we will ward off civil strife that is sure to erupt in the near future.

Most sincerely yours,

Mabel Wilby Beale
323 Williams St. Apt. C
Osborn, Ohio.

May 20, 1946.

Mrs. Mabel Wiley Beale
323 Williams Street, Apt. C
Osborne, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Beale:

Thank you for your letter of April 9 concerning my statements about the necessity for obtaining quick settlement of our labor-management disputes.

The problems of maintaining a fair balance of bargaining power between management and labor, safeguarding the public interest, and encouraging the growth of democratic responsibility within unions, are exceptionally difficult. Those in Washington responsible for such problems are giving serious attention to them.

Labor matters are outside my area of direct responsibility but unless some way can be found to avoid prolonged shutdowns of key industries, it will be difficult to prevent further substantial increases in living costs.

Sincerely yours,

Marriner S. Eccles,
Chairman.

WFS:EBW:db