

Harding Addresses Congress on Strikes

(Continued From Page Ten.)

Members and constituting the necessary forces in railroad operation, shall be permitted to choose a course which imperils public welfare. Neither organizations of employers nor working men's unions may escape responsibility. When related to a public service the mere fact of approval magnifies that responsibility and public interest transcends that of either grouped capital or organized labor.

Another development is so significant that the hardships of the moment may be well endured to rivet popular attention to the necessary settlement. It is fundamental to all freedom that all men have unquestioned rights to lawful pursuits, to work and to live and choose their own lawful ways to happiness. In these strikes these rights have been denied by assault and the necessary force of lawlessness. In many communities the municipal authorities have winked at these violations, until liberty is a mockery and the law a matter of community contempt. It is fair to say that the great mass of organized workers do not desire to be lawless. They are helpless to hinder. These conditions cannot remain in free America. If free men cannot toll according to their own lawful choosing, all our constitutional guarantees born of democracy are rendered to mockery and the necessary force of lawlessness is surrendered to the small minority which would have no law.

No Hasty Action.
It is not my thought to ask congress to deal with these fundamental problems at this time. No hasty action would contribute to the solution of the present critical situation. There is existing law by which to settle the prevailing disputes. There are laws to assure the highest possible safety in railway service. It is my purpose to invoke these laws, civil and criminal, against all offenders alike.

The legal safeguarding against like menaces in the future must be worked out when no passion sways, when no prejudice influences, when the whole problem may be approached with the maintenance of peace and the preservation of amicable relations with the nations of the earth, it is to possess without question all the reasonable and proper means of maintaining the one and preserving the other.

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Bestowal of Jurisdiction.
The matter has been before congress on many previous occasions. President Tyler in his first annual message advised congress that inasmuch as "the government is charged with the maintenance of peace and the preservation of amicable relations with the nations of the earth, it is to possess without question all the reasonable and proper means of maintaining the one and preserving the other."

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classes where the ultimate responsibility of the federal government may be involved. President Roosevelt uttered a like request to congress in 1906, and President Taft pointed out the defect in the present federal jurisdiction when he made his inaugural address in 1909. He declared that "it puts our government in a pusillanimous position to make definite engagement to protect aliens and then to excuse the failure to perform the engagements by an explanation that the duty to keep them in is states or cities not within our control. If we would promise, we must put ourselves in a position to perform our promise. We cannot permit the possible failure of justice due, to local prejudice in any state or municipal government, to expose us to the risk of war which might be avoided if federal jurisdiction were asserted by suitable legislation by congress."

Off-Made Recommendation.
My renewal of this off-made recommendation is impelled by a terrible sense of federal impotence to deal with the shocking crime at Herrin, Ill., which so recently shamed and horrified the country. In that butchery of human beings, wrought in madness, it is alleged that two aliens were murdered. This act adds to the outraged sense of American justice the humiliation which lies in the federal governments confessed lack of authority to punish that unalterable crime.

Had it happened in any other land than our own, and the wrath of righteous justice were not ineffectively expressed, we should have pitied the civilization that would tolerate and sorrowed for the government, unwilling or unable to mete out just punishment.

Popular Resentment.
I have felt the deep current of popular resentment that the federal government has not sought to efface this blot from our national shield.

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tion which is contrary to public welfare. We also recognize the right of employees and employers alike, when within the law, to establish their methods of conducting business, to choose their employment and to determine their relations with each other. We must reassert the doctrine that in this republic the first obligation and the first allegiance of every citizen, high or low, is to his government, and to hold that government to be the just and unchallenged sponsor for public welfare, and the liberty, security and rights of all its citizens. No matter what clouds may gather, no matter what storms may ensue, no matter what hardships may attend or what sacrifice may be necessary, government by law must and will be sustained.

Patient Conference.
In the weeks of patient conference and attempts at settlement I have come to appraise another element in the engrossing industrial dispute of which it is only fair to take cognizance. It is in some degree responsible for the strikes and has hindered attempts at adjustment. I refer to the warfare on the unions of labor. The government has no sympathy or approval for this element of discord in the ranks of industry. Any legislation in the future must be as free from this element of trouble-making as it is from labor extremists who strive for class domination. We recognize these organizations in the law, and we must credit them with incalculable contribution to labor's uplift. It is of public interest to preserve them and profit by the good that is in them, but we must check the abuses and the excesses which conflict with public interest, precisely as we have been progressively legislating to prevent capitalistic, corporate or managerial domination.

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