[1949?] WPR - speech no date

WPR - Cleveland, Ohio
Western Reserve University
January

The Taft Hartley acts is, as I said before, Impractical and a violation of basic human rights. It is anti-labor and anti-democratic, and I want to show you why II say that. I understand that Senator Taft was here at the last lecture. It's strange, but you know, when I get an invitation to speak at some University or some organization, Senator Taft is there the week ahead of me. That's a good arrangement. That's to see that your intellectual diet is well balanced. Now Senator Taft said on this platform some weeks ago, That the Taft-Hartley Act was really quite a wonderful thing, and that th3 American workers really were in favor of it. It was only the labor bosses - and you're looking at a labor boss - that were opposed to this Act and that actually this law was acceptable to the great mass of American workers and that it was really a blessing.

Well let's look at just one specific provision of this law and measure it by other democratic standards that govern the relationship of free men, and then make your minds up as to whether it is a fair piece of legislation, measured by democratic standards and then find out what has happened in terms of votes on the part of democratic workers - democratic workers, to judge whether they love it as Senator Taft would have you believe they love it. Let's take the union shop provision of the Taft-Hartley law. Now there's a great deal been said by Mr. Taft and his associates about the union shop. They said that certainly there ought to be a democratic vote I can't argue too much about that, because I'm in favor of that. But they say that the union shop robs workers of their freedom.

It takes away from them, things that they have a right to have. Now I say if you measure the union shop principle, against accepted democratic standards that we apply in other phases of our lives, that the union shop is not only democratic but it makes sense. The union shop is an idea that says: that if a group of workers democratically bind themselves together and that the majority think they ought to do a certain thing and they work together in the interest of all the workers, and every worker in that plant gets the benefits of collective bargaining, in wages and working conditions, in having his grievances appealed through the procedure to the umpire, that the union must pay, that just as every citizen in the general community, who derive benefits and services through the efforts of the total community, just as that citizen is asked also to carry his proportionate share, of the duties and obligations and the cost of that community service, so that same principle ought to be applied to the industrial community with respect to the problems carried out there through collective bargaining. Now when a group of workers advocate the exercise of that principle, which is one of the oldest American principles, because we fought a Revolutionary war against the principle of taxation without representation and the other side of that coin is that its is just as wrong to get taxed without representation as it is to get representation without taxation. And the workers say that if everybody is going to get the benefits of coll. bargain. and if the majority of workers in the industrial community in the factory make decisions democratically, then all the workers who get the benefit of that effort, ought to carry the cost of that effort. Now that's the principle. Now when the medical association applies that to their profession, they don't have a union shop - they have a closed shop !

You can't get into the hospital - you can't get a bed in a hospital unless you belong to the Medical association. And they have a $25 dssessment, not a dollar assessment like we have in our union. They have a $25 assessment for their legislative work in Washington. Now when they do it, ~~XXX~~ why it's a fine, noble American principle being applied. When the lawyers - when the bar association do it - why you can't even get into the bar association unless you belong to their union - when they do it, why its a fine ~~xxxxg~~ principle - and Mr. Taft belongs to the lawyers union, that has a closed shop.

Its a fine thing when they do it, but when a bunch of workers who have grease under their fingernails, who get paid less, attempt to build a democratic structure in the industrial community. it suddenly becomes a wholly undemocratic proposition, un-american and detrimental to basic human values. Well, they came up ~~with~~ in with a principle in the Taft-Hartley laws that said you would have to have a vote. A government sponsored vote ~~that requires~~ before a union ~~you~~ can legally ask in collective bargaining, not for a closed shop like the doctors and lawyers have, but a unionshop, which means the company can hire any ~~one~~ BODY they want, within a period of time before they have to pay dues. And they said that before you can ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ ask for such a provision in your contract you must have a vote. now, how did they rig that vote. Well, when you elect a senator in Ohio, if he gets a majority of the votes cast, he's elected. When the NLRB conducts what we call a representation election, a majority of those voting decides the issue. But when you have a Taft-Hartley union-shop election, You've got to get a majority of all the workers eligible who work in the plant, not a majority of those voting.
If there are 10,000 workers in the factory, and 4,999 vote yes,

for the union and 5,001 don't vote at all --

Then there's 5001 votes against the union and 4,999 for the union and you lose it. Now I say that Senator Taft couldn't have been elected if he had applied to his own election, that principle. And I looked up the record, just to refresh your memory. Ih 1938, Mr. Taft, was elected by 36.6 of the elibigle votesr in the state of Ohio. In '44 he was elected by 29.2 percent of the elibigle voters, and your other contribution to the U.S. Senate, Mr. Bricker, $n 1948, Mr. Bricker received 24.6 of the eligible vote. And I say that neither Mr. Taft nor Mr. Bricker can be elected to a dog-catchers position under ~~the terms of their election~~ this own principles in the state of Ohio. Now these same people who profess that the workers love the taft-hartley act, are opposed to the union shop because that's an instrument of oppression in the hands of the labor bosses, when thense government votes are taken as provided for in the Taft-Hartley Act, What do we find - we find in the case of the Ford Motor Co. when we had a labor board election to determine representation, where you only had to get a majority of those voting, they held it inside the factory to make it easy for everybody to vote. But when we had the election to determine the union shop, where you had to get a majority of all the workers, whether they voted or not, they wouldn't let us hold it in the shop, we had to hold it a mile away from the factory.

Now, Mr. Taft says they love it and they're all against the bosses, here are the results of the Ford election, not an election conducted by the labor bosses, but an election conducted by the Government - a secret ballot election run just like any city or state election - with a polling list if the people checked off as they cast their ballott secretly in a polling booth.

and although the workers - some of they had to go from the far side of the Rouge plant - and they voted at the Rouge plant - and they voted all over the country in every ford plant there were 98, 989 eligible workers, 90, 157 cast their vote and 89,493 voted yes for the union 1,241 voted no against the union. Now, you ask Mr. Taft how he reconciles that, that the workers are in favor of Taft Hartley, and only the labor bosses oppose it. You ask how he resolves this principle, of where you get a majority of everybody eligible to vote, and if a fellow is negligent or unconcerned, or if the president of the local union is sick that day and can't vote because he is scik, he votes against the union because of Mr. Taft's democratic procedure. And I say that that sort of approach really gives you the basis for anylizing this kind of legislation. Its the negative approach and I say that freedom in America is in jeopardy as long as long as we put the emphasis on the negative aspect of these things instead of the positive aspects. Let me point out another specific illustration, and I list these things because the talk about freedom in the abstract is a dangerous process. You've got to talk about freedom in the terms of people and problems in the world., because you're dealing with the kind of forces in the world

we are in trouble and we have got to ask ourselves this simple question:

Is it better to wait until the economic situation worsens, until the ranks of the unemployed are swelled, and then start to fight, or is it better to start fighting now before it gets that serious?

We take the position that the time to start fighting is now, not tomorrow, on these things.

(Applause.)

We have got a two armed fight to make here. We have got to fight economic-wise in our collective bargaining conferences. We have got to mobilize the workers so that they understand the implications of the economic facts involved in these negotiations, and having understood them, we can get them to support us.and

And we have got to fight on the political front,bbecause more and more we are going to find that basic economic decisions are going to be made in the political arena. Phil Murray has got a fact finding board. The Steelworkers postponed a strike for 60 days because they knew that the Taft-Hartley was there staring them in the face.

Taft-Hartley was designed to weaken the economic power of Labor, and so we have got to fight economic-wise and we have got to fight politically.

I say that this Convention faces an immediate

task in Detroit. You have got the City elections coming up where we have got to do a job, and then next year, 1950, we have got a real fight on our hands. It is always much easier to get workers mobilized to vote during Presidential elections, because there is more drama, there is more national interest, than you get in the average off-year Congressional elections.

And yet, 1950 is going to be decisive. In going over yesterday the political action program that we are going to recommend to our Executive Board of the International next week, we made a survey of the number of friendly Congressmen from districts where CIO has large membership, and we find that the overwhelming majority of the Congressmen sitting in Washington who are friendly to us, who stand for repeal of Taft-Hartley, who stand for a decent minimum wage law, who stand for a national health program, who stand for a decent housing program, who stand for FEPC legislation and civil rights, who stand for all the things we stand for, we found that about 75 per cent of these Congressmen came from districts where the margin of victory last year was three or four per cent.

That means that if we don't do a job in those districts, they can drop back to the opposition column and we can lose the support we now have.

We found something else equally significant. We

found also that there are enough marginal Congressional districts now in the opposition column where three or four or five per cent can change them into our column, if we do a job. They are districts where CIO and other labor groups have sizeable memberships.

But the trouble is that we don't mobilize the power that we have politically in those districts. We make the same mistake year in and year out. When I say "we", I mean all of us, and that is we get all worked up, too near election time.

We have got to make political action a three hundred and sixty-five day a year proposition. We have got to work on this. We have got to build effectively functioning political action committees in every local and in every Congressional district. We have got to get workers in there breaking those districts down on a ward and precinct basis, on a neighborhood and block basis, with guys in there working throughout the year contacting the neighbors, talking issues, building organization, so that when election day comes we don't make a last minute scramble to shake the bushes. We just double the effort a little bit on election day, as part of the total 12 month political action program that we are working on.

We have got the power. Take down in the State of Ohio. Yesterday the Republican National Committee chose a

new Chairman. He is an employer from New Jersey. He is a banker. He is a corporation head, and it was said by one of his campaign managers --- and he only got elected by one vote. He didn't do so good. He said that the election of this fellow to the Chairmanship of the Republican National Committee was symbolic because he was Bob Taft's man, because in 1950 the Republican Party, he said, was going to be running for re-election in Ohio because Bob Taft symbolically represented the Republican Party.

Now what are we going to do with Bob Taft? If we could get 75 per cent of the people who have union cards in their pockets in the State of Ohio, and their wives, to vote, Bob Taft wouldn't have a chance.

Now if we can't make the guys in Ohio see that, then we have failed.

But the trouble is that we haven't as yet done the basic educational work to make people understand the relationship between economic problems and political responsibility. We have got to carry on the kind of a campaign that when the guy in the shop gripes because he can't get all the wonderful things out of the Union that he wants, say to him: Look, Brother, you help make it possible by doing your part of the job out here on the political front. What did you do last year? Did you vote? Are you registered? Is your wife registered? Is your mother-in-law registered?

Did they vote?

That's the kind of a job we have got to do, and if we do it, 1950 can be a year of great decision on the political front. If we can get about 25 more decent Congressmen and a few more decent Senators, we can put through the fair deal legislative program because, as we found on a couple of test votes, three or four Congressmen would have made the difference.

Take a place like Flint. Ah, you go up there and you talk with the Chevrolet boys. They are super-duper militant. They want to tear the building down, and if the Union said: Go ahead, I think they could do it with their bare hands.

Yet, Flint, with the Chevrolet plant there, with the Buick plant, with the AC plant, with two Fisher body plants, they got a vicious reactionary Congressman named Blackney who votes wrong on everything.

Now there is something wrong when a City like Flint, which is the guts of that Congressional district, can't elect a good Congressman. We shouldn't blame Mr. Blackney. We ought to blame ourselves, and the sooner we can get guys in the Chevrolet plant in Flint and the Buick plant and other plants like that starting to blame themselves instead of the other guy, on that day we will be marching down the road that means success politically.

Now I don't want to take a lot of your time. You have got a lot of work and unfortunately I have got a lot of work and I have got to get back to the office. All I want to say is this:

We have come a long way since the early days. We have got more to work with today than we have ever had. We have got powerful unions. We have got the tools that we didn't have back in the dark period before the Union.

But these tools will not work themselves. We have got to take these tools and we have got to apply to them human energy and loyalty and sweat. We have got to use them to fight and build economically and politically, and if we do that, I say that we can change America. We can rewrite the legislation of America at the Federal and State level. We can do an effective job in completing the unfinished work of democracy.

But it is a big job. You can't do it by speech making. You can't do it by writing resolutions. Oh, if you could pave the way to Utopia with pious resolutions, the Wayne County CIO Convention and the UAW Convention could have done it long ago.

You have got to translate pious resolutions and declarations into programmatic action. You have got to fight to give these things tangible form on the every day practical fighting front.

And I say to you and your membership: We have got a golden opportunity. Let's make the most of that. Let's work together. Let's rise above the petty differences. Let's unite around the basic things that count.

If we do that, I am positive that there is no power in the world that can stop us. We can march forward together and we can build the kind of a world that we want and the kind of a world that is possible.

Thank you.

(Prolonged applause.)

PRESIDENT NOVAK: Brother Reuther, on behalf of the delegates representing our affiliated unions and the members of the CIO, I wish to express to you, Brother Reuther, our sincere thanks and deep appreciation for your inspiring speech to our delegates, and thanks for making your appearance.

Brother Reuther, at this time you are excused.

(UAW President Reuther excused.)

Address By

WALTER P. REUTHER

to

Annual Convention

Greater Detroit and Wayne County Industrial Union Council

CIO-PAC

Dairy Workers Hall

15840 Second Boulevard

Saturday, 6 August, 1949

WALTER REUTHER ADDRESS

UAW PRESIDENT REUTHER: Brother Chairman, Fellow Workers and Delegates:to this Convention:

I wish to apologize for not appearing when I was scheduled to. John Bugas has been keeping me busy, and I hope I have been keeping him busy.

(Applause.)

This morning when I got to the office I was advised that Mr. Bugas and the legal representatives of the Ford Motor Company were appearing before the Supreme Court in Lansing asking for a temporary restraining order to block the elections in the Ford plants, which were to start on Monday, and I had to get actively involved in that, and that delayed my coming out here.

I am happy to report, however, that the Supreme Court has denied the Company's Restraining Order, and the elections will be held starting Monday.

(Prolonged applause.)

The last couple of days the Company has been doing the very thing that we anticipated. They have been making last minute desperate maneuvers to confuse the situation among the Ford workers, hoping that that will minimize the overwhelming Yes vote that we anticipate.

Yesterday I received a letter from Mr. Bugas.

I might say that the Ford workers and myself received a lot of letters from Mr. Bugas. He is trying to create full employment through the postal department.

In the letter he said to us that we have been misrepresenting the Company's position to the Ford workers, and that the Ford Motor Company, in effect, was not trying to destroy the seniority provisions of the contract, and they were not trying to do a lot of other things that we had charged them with.

Now the simple facts are that the Company had been carrying on a propaganda campaign telling the workers one thing, but speaking an entirely different language in the collective bargaining conferences.

They had made a large number of written proposals to the Ford Bargaining Committee in which they proposed taking away important seniority provisions, reducing the number of Committee members 40 per cent, and, in effect, weakening the basic contract in a number of important respects.

We told John Bugas in our answer last night that the simplest way to clear up the charges that they have made against us and that we have made against them is to have a big mass meeting in the Briggs Stadium tomorrow of all the Ford workers in this area at which time the Company representative and the Union representative will present

their facts, and we told Mr. Bugas we would read at that time to the Ford workers in such a mass meeting the Company's own written proposals and we would nail down the Company's lie.

Mr. Bugas refused to participate in such a meeting and because he couldn't confuse the issues, he went to Lansing, and although we are advised that the Ford Motor Company has a lot of friends on the Supreme Court, their basis for asking for a Restraining Order was so completely without foundation that even the Supreme Court of Michigan had to set it aside.

It is a strange business. Reactionary employers go to Lansing, reactionary employers go to Washington, and they fight to get on the statute books vicious anti-labor legislation.

After they get that legislation and it involves, in some cases, a vote of the employes on whether or not they are going to support a strike request of their Union, then the companies get jittery and they even try to use the State court to block the application of the legislation which they wanted and we were opposed to to begin with.

Now one of the ways that we finally got rid of the provisions under the Smith-Connelly Law, where we had to have strike votes conducted by the Federal Government, was to go in and take that machinery and use it and beat the

employers over the ears with their own vicious anti-labor legislation, and we did that so successfully with the Smith-Connelly strike vote machinery that they finally suspended that part of the law, because the Labor Board couldn't keep up with all the demands, and I think maybe we ought to give the Bonine-Tripp machinery the same kind of treatment and get rid of it by the same kind of procedure.

Now what are the basic problems in the Ford negotiations? While the Ford negotiations directly affect only the Ford workers, indirectly they affect every worker in this nation, because we in America are at the cross roads. We are either going to take the road in America that leads to a full employment, full production economy based upon the great mass of people having sufficient purchasing power to buy back the products of their labor, or we are going to travel the road which big business wants us to travel, which leads to unemployment, insecurity, depression and war.

The Ford workers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week are going to make a decision on whether they are going to travel the road that leads forward or whether they are going to travel the road that leads backward in America.

That is why the Ford vote is important, because it is going to indicate, in the first situation since the economic developments have worsened, that the Ford workers

and that the workers in American industry generally are not going to take this one lying down.

We take the position that if unemployment is developing, it is definitely because the workers are getting too little of the economic wealth created in America, and that the way to correct that is not for the workers to trim their economic sails, nor for the workers to cancel out their basic economic demands, but if we are getting into unemployment because the mass of workers don't have enough, then that is all the more reason why at this time we have got to be prepared to fight for more, because that is the only answer to our basic economic problems.

We are telling that to the Ford workers, and the Ford workers, I think, will give us the kind of overwhelming vote this year that we got last year. Last year we had to have a Union Shop election and last year before the vote was counted, the Ford Motor Company sat back and said No to every demand of the Union. John Bugas, representing the Company, advocated a wage cut.

Then the votes were cast and the votes were counted, and when the vote showed an overwhelming Yes for the Union, the Ford Motor Company pulled back their wage cut proposal, and we sat down and we worked out an agreement and we are convinced that when the vote this year is counted, that it will be an overwhelming Yes vote, and that when that

vote is recorded, the Ford Motor Company will sit down and begin to bargain.

We don't want a strike. The Ford workers don't want a strike. They want justice, and we are prepared to exhaust every effort through peaceful negotiations to get a decent contract and economic concessions.

But if the Ford Motor Company is unwilling to meet those just demands of the Ford workers, we are prepared to use all the weapons that we possess to get that economic justice, and I think that certainly in that fight the Ford workers will have the complete support of all other sections of the organized labor movement.

In the Ford Motor Company, we have a classic example of the double standards that we have been talking about for a long while. We asked John Bugas several days ago in collective bargaining sessions if it wasn't a fact that inside the Ford Motor Company high paid executives were getting $200,000 per year or on the average of $100 per hour. He said: That's right.

We asked him if it wasn't a fact that these same executives were getting large stock bonuses in the dummy corporation set up by the Ford Motor Company called The Dearborn Motors. He agreed that that was right.

And we said: Is it not also correct that these same $100 per hour executives who have been there four years

have already got a pension plan worked out paid for by the Company? He said: That's right.

And we said: You tell us how you can explain the fact that a fellow who has been there four years, who makes $100 per hour, gets a pension plan, but a fellow who has been there 30 years and makes $1.64 an hour is not entitled to one.

He said: Well, we can't get the $200,000 a year men to work for us unless we give them a bonus and a pension. We can get the $1.64 guys to work for us without a pension.

And we said: That's where you are wrong, because the buck sixty-four guys are going to insist upon the same kind of treatment as the $100 per hour men.

But the Ford Motor Company believes that by this campaign of confusion that they are going to fool enough workers into voting No, that we won't have any bargaining power.

But they are wrong, because the Ford workers know the score. They know that the Company, like these other corporations, gives the workers those things that the workers have the power to take. They don't serve us anything on a silver platter, either Ford or General Motors. They know that the Ford Motor Company can afford these things.

The Ford Motor Company said: If you raise wages and have pension plans and hospital-medical plans,

you are going to increase labor costs and then we will have to raise the price of our cars and then we won't be able to sell as many and we will have fewer jobs, and therefore a wage increase is bad.

We said: Well, we will talk about that, but so that we can get our discussion down out of the stratosphere of economic generalities, you tell us how much it costs to make a Ford car. We know how much it costs to buy one. You tell us how much it costs to make one, and then we will tell you how much you can give in wage increases, pension plans and hospital-medical plans before you have to reflect those costs in the selling price of a car.

Oh, they said, we won't tell you that.

We said: Then tell us how much profit you are making. We know how much General Motors is making. In three months in the second quarter of 1949, General Motors made $166,000,000 in profits. Little Studebaker down in South Bend is making the highest profits in the history of the Studebaker Corporation. And the Ford Motor Company is making the highest profits in their history.

So we said: Tell us what the profits are, so that we can carry on our discussions not in terms of general economic arguments but in terms of specific economic arguments as they apply to the position of the Ford Motor Company.

And they said: No, we won't tell you that. They

are hiding behind their little private economic iron curtain, because it is a family owned corporation and they don't have to publish a financial report. But they can afford it.

However, they are following the same kind of upside down economics that the United States Steel Corporation is following with Phil Murray and the Steelworkers; that General Electric and Westinghouse Electric are following with the Electrical Workers.

It is the old upside down economics that gives and gives and gives to the people who have got too much, while denying a fair share to the people who have too little.

As I told the Convention in Milwaukee, the rich are getting richer, faster, and the poor are getting poorer, faster than any time in the history of this country, and that is why we are heading for economic trouble.

As we pointed out to the Company, the figures published by the Department of Commerce show the trend of the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people, and that is the thing that spells economic trouble down the road for America, when in 1947 the upper ten per cent of America's income families get 33 per cent of the savings, but in 1948 that same ten per cent gets 77 per cent of the savings.

Now, what does that mean? We said to the Company: Every time a family in the upper ten per cent,

every time they get ten thousand more dollars in income, that ten thousand dollars more income doesn't buy one more loaf of bread, it doesn't buy one more pair of shoes, it doesn't buy one more suit of clothes, because those families already have all the bread they need and all the shoes they need and all the clothing they need.

But, you transfer that ten thousand dollars into the pay checks of a lot of workers, and every dollar they get will show up in the grocery store, in the clothing store, and in the shoe store; and the shoes that they buy with that money will have to be produced by some shoe worker who will get wages and he will buy other things and the things he buys will be produced by some other worker, and he will get wages and he will buy things.

Prosperity cannot be built from the top down. It has got to be built from the bottom up, and the sooner we understand that, and the sooner we translate that understanding into programmatic action across the bargaining table, and fight for that position, the sooner we will divert this country from the road that it is traveling now towards depression and war, and get it back on the main road that leads to full employment, full production, and prosperity.

That's what is involved in the Ford negotiations, because if we don't stop this trend now,

er-Journal

SPORTS AND AMUSEMENTS
WOMEN'S NEWS AND RADIO

[Courier-Journal, 12/20/49]

Reuther Lists Guaranteed Yearly Pay And $200 Pensions as Goals of U.A.W.



Courier-Journal Photo

AT A LABOR MEETING at Memorial Auditorium last night speakers included, from left, John W. Livingston, United Automobile Workers vice-president; Walter P. Reuther, president, and Raymond Berndt, director of the union's Region 3, which includes Kentucky.

Campaigns Here For Auto Union At Harvester

Principal aims of the United Automobile Workers include guaranteed annual wages and $200-a-month pensions.

Walter P. Reuther, president of the C.I.O. union, told of the aims in a talk at Memorial Auditorium last night. He was here in the interest of the union's effort to supplant the United Farm Equipment Workers as bargaining agent for International Harvester Company tractor workers here. The workers will vote tomorrow on which union they want in an election conducted by the N.L.R.B.

Says Principle Is Vital

Reuther said the $100 pension now in effect at Ford Motor Company would be increased within 10 years to $200 and be extended to other companies.

"And we are going to get a guaranteed annual wage just as surely as we got the pension," he added. Such a wage principle is essential to the purchasing power an economic health of the country, Reuther asserted.

Reuther said immediate aims for Harvester workers if his union wins the election would include better pay, better job-senority rules, and a better procedure for settling workers' grievances.

Scoring the Farm Equipment Union's record of "wildcat," unauthorized work stoppages at Harvester, Reuther said they resulted from faulty grievance machinery. "When we get the bargaining rights we will strengthen the grievance procedure and have a union strong enough to police the agreement on grievances," he said.

Pledges No 'Wildcatting'

He said he was informed the average tractor-plant worker at Harvester lost $550 in wages in the past year as a result of the stoppages.

The U.A.W., he continued, believes in fighting on the real issues. "We don't go for wildcatting the year 'round," he said. "We believe in doing the job the work contract calls for during the life of the contract," then striking if necessary.

His union will never stop, he said, "until it is able to tell Harvester that U.A.W. negotiators represent all Harvester production and maintenance workers in all plants."

Reuther said the U.A.W. is a strong union because "the great mass of workers make the decisions and set the policy."

Claims 1,000,000 Members

"You will not get the wages, seniority, and grievance procedure you need until all Harvester workers are represented by one powerful union so you can sit down to negotiate with one set of demands and unified ranks," he said.

He likened the collective bargaining power of the U.A.W., for which he claims a membership of over 1,000,000, to a battleship with 16-inch guns. In comparison, he said, the F.E. is like "a rowboat armed with peashooters."

Reuther asserted farm-implement workers generally are not paid as much as automobile workers for the same jobs. The difference, he asserted, is 15 to 20 cents an hour. But he said the Ford tractor workers for whom U.A.W. bargains receive the same pay as automobile makers.

He denied a report circulated by F.E. that workers here would be without a work contract with the company if U.A.W. wins the election. The former contract always is continued after an election, he said, "until we can sit down and negotiate a better one." He said it also was untrue that arbitration of grievances now pending would be lost.

Calls F.E. Leaders Reds

Reuther accused the top F.E. leaders of Communist leanings. "We know the workers are not Communists," he said. "It's the leaders on the top who betray the workers whenever the Communist Party dictates."

He challenged Grant Oakes, F.E. president, to show one instance when Russian foreign policy shifted and the F.E. did not shift its actions accordingly "and as quickly as possible."

He cited Oakes' support of the candidacy of Henry Wallace for President as an example, saying it was dictated by the Communist Party.

"The Communist-dominated unions in the United States would sabotage our defenses if we let them get away with it," Reuther asserted.

Answers 'Dictator' Charge

Saying he had been called a dictator, he invited comparison of the U.A.W. and F.E. constitutions. No U.A.W. member can be expelled except after trial by his fellow unionists, he said. But, he added, the F. E. constitution provides that its president can suspend anyone "for acts detrimental to the best interest of the union."

Reuther told of the U.A.W.'s educational program, which he said was designed to develop better leadership. "The F.E. is not trying to educate its people, but to feed them the Communist Party line," he charged.

The attendance at the meeting, open to the public, was estimated by William Hoke Camp, manager of the auditorium, as 650.

Thomas DeLong, acting president of F.E. Local 236, issued this statement after the meeting:

"Harvester workers were conspicuous by their absence. We predict a huge majority vote Wednesday to maintain the F.E. contract and continued unity of Local 236 in the fight to advance the wages and working conditions of the workers."

Next 2 City Beef Sessions Are Canceled for Holidays

Because of the holidays there won't be any beef sessions the next two Mondays.

There almost wasn't a beef session yesterday.

Mayor Charles Farnsley called up to explain he had to fix a flat tire on Mrs. Farnsley's car. He asked George A. Hendon, Jr., his executive assistant, to take his place.

Hendon got together with the department heads but there no beefers. City Engineer Sanders suggested serving Works Director Herman proposed singing carols. anything happened, how- beefers showed up to day.

Collect Allowance.

Lynch, 1223 Floyd, know why Juvenile to more for her. She band left her and five years ago. The her $22.50 a week her husband, she said.

or Gilbert Bur- has no juris- urt, which is ate control. vid A. Mc- investigate der, 1416 or parks

trucks in front of Snyder's home and keeps a horse in his garage.

Mrs. J. N. Fischer, 3421 Woodland, and a neighbor, Mrs. Betty Copeland, presented several complaints. They asked for sewers, which they were told are to be built. They objected to a dump near their homes, and asked for street repairs and a street light at 35th and Woodland. These will be investigated.

Banquet Honors Walter Hoshal Of Dry League

A testimonial banquet for Walter Hoshal, retiring superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Kentucky, was held last night at the Y.M.C.A.

The Rev. Charles A. Humphrey, vice-president of the league, announced that selection of a successor to Hoshal was "under advisement." Miss Dorothy Schmidt, Louisville, was elected to succeed Mrs. Hoshal as office secretary.

Maj. Clayton M. Wallace, Washington, general superintendent of the Temperance League of America, addressed the meeting.

Two Masons Lodges Elect New Officers

Hans W. Lindorff, 2613 Con- ga, has been elected master of nson Lodge of Masons for ming year.

new officers: wardens, V. Morris and Ray J. deacons, Edwin Bell ar Gilland; secretary, gner; treasurer, Elmer and tyler, Andrew

Lodge also reported selections. Gordon was elected mas- rs: senior warden, iser, Sr.; junior M. Cotton; sec- Brown; treas- inslow; senior impson; jun- n Cotton; lon Sexton; Dye, and

Futile Hunt For Assassins Irks Reuther

Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers, last night said there had been a "few developments" in the police hunt for the man or men who shot him and his brother, Victor.

Reuther, here for a speech, added in an interview that because no one had been captured he was not satisfied with the way the hunt was going.

Both Reuthers were shot through the windows of their Detroit homes. Walter was shot April 20, 1948, and Victor May 24, 1949.

Nothing Comes of Probe Here

Walter Reuther's right elbow is still stiff from the wound and he plans to go back into a hospital in February. He said he had had to relearn to write.

Since the attack Reuther has been using a bulletproof car ordered for him by the executive board of his C.I.O. union.

The labor leader said he didn't like the car because the windows would not roll down and in the summer "you could fry an egg inside."

Reuther said "nothing had come" of a recent investigation here by Detroit detectives into the shootings. Several persons here were talked to by the detectives.

Plans Under Way For Phone Co-op In McLean County

Calhoun, Ky., Dec. 19 (AP)—Plans were made here tonight to organize possibly the first co-operative in Kentucky to improve telephone service under the new federal-rural-telephone amendment to the Rural Electrification Act.

The co-operative would serve most of McLean County. Temporary administrative machinery to form the organization was set up at the Courthouse here. The meeting was called by Leroy Northington, McLean County extension agent, and was attended by 55 residents.

The co-operative's purpose is to improve telephone service in the rural areas of the county, especially in the villages of Beech Grove and Sacramento.

Jeffersonville ...en Whisky

...d yesterday in the theft of 50 ...erstate shipment here.

...riday night after the Federal ... 31 cases of whisky and 14 ... the basement of a house

... arrested. He said he had been ...ring with a man over the ... at $35 a case, Hallford

...agent said the raid was ... expectation of finding ... whisky. It was stolen ... 9 from a truck parked ...k Truck Lines, 1227

... were stolen Decem- ...illion Motor Express, ... Also recovered in ... were two adding ... a case of candy, ...Killion Company.

Stealing Beer

... of beer were ... for three men ...irchdorfer. ... the three— ... of the 300 ...t; Sylvester ...00 block of ...E. Miller, ...outh Clay ... a truck, ... sold the ...ge was ...Brew- ...lis. ...nd at ... and ...arch ...heir