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Alumni in the News

LEGISLATION to control the actions of a few irresponsible union leaders for the general good of the entire union movement is suggested by Congressman Mike Monroney, '24ba, in an article, "What America Demands of Labor," in the June issue of *The American* magazine.

Describing conditions in the labor movement which he thinks must be realized by the people and dealt with now, Mr. Monroney pointed out that a comparatively small minority of labor leaders and labor practices are giving the whole labor movement a black eye, but that under the present system there is no way that the irresponsible members can be curbed or the abuses corrected.

Moderate labor legislation, which it would be to labor's own interests to support, is often defeated because wise labor leaders, feeling that their positions will be jeopardized, join forces with the irresponsible few. Mr. Monroney attributes this to labor's obsolete inferiority complex, "a hang-over from the days when unions really were persecuted, when union organizers risked death or disfigurement, when the law was on the side of company police blackjacks, and strikes were smashed by injunctions and bayonets."

Also strengthening the lineup which opposes moderate labor legislation, the Congressman noted, are the enemies of labor, the labor baiters. "Thus we see a grotesque spectacle: the labor lobby banded together with the anti-labor lobby—an archaic inferiority complex on one side linked with a sly Machiavellianism on the other—to kill off moderate legislation backed by the great majority of the public."

In the remedy which he proposes, Mr. Monroney suggests that Congress amend the antitrust laws, under which labor unions are exempted, so as to reaffirm labor's exemption so far as legitimate objects are concerned, but to remove or qualify the blanket immunity for various outlaw union practices.

Another labor abuse, which should be corrected in the opinion of the congressman, is that of allowing a few men in the union movement to achieve such control over their organizations and membership that they become veritable despots and bosses. "The simplest way to do this," he wrote, "would be to require the National Labor Relations Board to certify for collective bargaining only those unions which are able to show certain minimum standards of good conduct in their internal union affairs."

Stating his own position in the matter, he wrote, "I think I am a friend of labor. As such, I say with all sincerity that if the great progressive labor leaders of this country will join with moderate public opinion in drawing up an enforceable labor code of fair union conduct, it will strengthen organized labor everywhere, confound the labor baiters, rewin public esteem, and ward off ominous dangers which now loom ahead."

Another article by Congressman Monroney entitled "Streamlining Congress" appeared in a recent issue of *Personnel Administration*, official publication of the Society for Personnel Administration, edited by Walter B. Emery, '34law, of the Federal Communications Commission staff in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Monroney is vice chairman of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress which is at present engaged in a study of ways to make Congress more efficient. Next to winning the war and the peace, the problem of improving the organization, machinery and effectiveness of Congress outranks every other issue, in his opinion.

Johnson Appointed Judge

One of the highest positions in public life ever attained by an alumnus has come to Rep. Jed

Johnson, '15, with his appointment as judge of the U.S. Customs Court in New York City.

Judge Johnson's appointment, which has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate, is believed to be the last made by the late President Roosevelt. Congressman from the sixth district since 1927, he is a former Oklahoma newspaperman and attorney.

The new Customs Court judge served in France during World War I and after returning to this country was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate, serving from 1920 to 1927. He has studied in France and was a delegate to the Peace Conference in Geneva in 1929.

Kerr Visits Truman

Gov. Robert S. Kerr, '16, was in Washington, D.C., in early May to pay his respects to President Truman and confer with federal officials on state affairs.

Governor Kerr visited the President in the company of the governors of Rhode Island and Maryland. He later conferred with federal roads administration officials in regard to federal participation in repairing and rebuilding highways and bridges in Oklahoma damaged by recent floods.

As head of the Southern Governors Conference, Governor Kerr talked with Senator McCarran, Democrat from Nevada and chairman of a committee studying reconversion problems, about reconversion of war plants in the middle west, southwest and south to peacetime operations after the war.

Cover World Conference

Two alumni are known to be among the group of journalists which have set up headquarters in San Francisco to cover the United Nations Conference on world organization which opened there late in April.

Paul T. Miller, '30, assistant general manager of Associated Press, heads the special A.P. staff assigned to conference coverage. A member of the staff is Jack Bell, '25ba, chief of the A.P. staff in Washington, D.C. Both men are former Oklahoma newspapermen.

To Conduct Boys State

Alumni who have long been active in American Legion affairs in Oklahoma will have charge of the 1945 Oklahoma Boys State, sponsored by the Legion, to be held August 8 to 15 on the campus of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Sulphur.

Included are C.B. Memminger, '14ba, '33law, Atoka attorney, who will serve as director, J.B. Koch, '26eng, Norman, department commander of the Legion for Oklahoma, and Dr. H.V. Thornton, '22ba, '29ma, of the O.U. government faculty, assistant director of the conference.

Two others from Norman who are scheduled to serve on the Boys State staff are Dr. H. Roy Gravelle, as counselor, and Bob Wilson, O.U. law student from Muskogee and first commander of the University's Legion post, as an adviser.

Oil Attorney Promoted

Earl Foster, '13law, Oklahoma City, long-time attorney for the conservation department of the State Corporation Commission, has been elected secretary of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission.

Mr. Foster became conservation attorney in August, 1935, and is conversant with compact commission work, having headed the legal committee for a number of years and served in an advisory capacity to the commission and its committees. He is a former member of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association, and served as alumni president from 1935-37.