

6914 N. Campbell Ave.

Portland, 17, Oregon

January 7, 1955

Dear sir,

I recently read your comment in the Dec. 27 issue of Newsweek concerning the matter of a Union Shop. Altho I am a minor official of a labor union which has recently negotiated a union shop agreement, I must concede that many of your arguements make sense. A number of our members occasionally advance similiar opinions.

To a large extent, I, too am inclined to agree. However, as in every question, there is more than one side, so permit me to suggest a possible alternative which would abolish such compulsory membership and at the same time relieve the reasonable objections of union members to paying dues, att-

2 } ending meetings and otherwise working for the benefit of the "free-rider".

The solution is this:

1. Make compulsory union membership illegal.
2. Make it legal for a labor union in any plant, industry or bargaining unit to bargain exclusively for the benefit of its members. With such a rule in effect any increases in pay or improvements in working conditions won by a labor union, whether thru negotiations or by strike or threat of strike would apply only to the members of that union. Non-members, being presumably contented with the wages and conditions previously prevailing, would simply continue as before.

This may sound facetious, Mr. Hazlitt, but I don't mean it that way. The main reason that the so-called "rank and file" approve these contracts is their just resentment

3. to the fact that the non-member receives the same benefits that they do.

Would you, sir, be entirely satisfied, if after the expenditure of considerable money and effort on your part you succeeded in convincing your publishers or sponsors to increase your pay, they immediately granted the same increase to all their other employees, most of whom had made no such effort and had in fact derided you for so doing? In spite of being a labor officer I am a conservative Republican and an active stock holder in a small business that is just large enough to give me an idea of some of the problems that employers face. But, as I said there are two sides to nearly every question.

Sincerely yours

Donald D. Foss