

substituting the bargaining table for the streets. And, we are not in a vacuum. As we sit here today we live in a highly industrial society.

THE PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I am through.

Any individual who goes to his employee by himself, even if it is the State, who in many instances is one of the biggest exploiters of human labor, he is not in a position of equality because the employer is at the highest point of power, but when he gathers together his co-workers and selects a representative and sits down at the bargaining table, we get justice.

We find the money to build our roads. We can find the money to pay people who work for the State and government a decent wage. Why exploit them and their children because they work for the State. This does not insure the right to strike as some people have said. It simply gives the right to the people who are exploited to sit down and bargain, and if with our friend, Mr. Wilson, and all of those in the Chamber of Commerce, the shoe were on the other foot, they would be the first to support the principle which finally evolved and which was accepted by this Convention before the pressures began.

I simply say today to remember those four young men, one of whom comes out of our own State, and who are lost to us because they cannot understand how we can continue to compromise. The issue, the sole issue, here is the exploitation of a man's labor, and the issue is: how shall we deal with it in the next fifty years? Do you want us to go back into the streets or do you say as a civilized Convention, let us sit down together at the bargaining table which is what we must do in this nation if we are to stop sacrificing all of our young men, and as mothers and grandmothers and as wives of working men, let us give all of our people a right to a decent living.

I ask you to vote against this amendment, and let us stop this ambivalence and let us close the gap between the preaching and the practice and let us have justice in our economic dealings in Maryland as well as elsewhere.

THE PRESIDENT: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: I move the previous question.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Fox, the motion has precedence, but I call your attention to the fact that I deprived Delegate Maurer of the floor a little while ago on the ground that I would have to do so as long as anyone desired to debate.

Would you withdraw your motion and give her an opportunity to ask a question?

DELEGATE FOX: I will withdraw it.

THE PRESIDENT: To whom do you want to direct your question?

DELEGATE MAURER: Delegate Kiefer. I should like to thank Delegate Fox first. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Very well.

DELEGATE MAURER: You said no state by statute permits employees to bargain. There are eleven states which regulate the bargaining of teachers in terms of their salaries, and in particular New York State's Taylor Law includes the recognition of the right of all employees to organize and bargain collectively.

I wonder if you would comment.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: I am not familiar with this. It is my understanding, as President Roosevelt said, this is taking away the concept of government in the State of Missouri. Their statutes are set out there, and the Attorney General ruled that this permits people to sit down, but it does not mean collective bargaining. I still say that is right. Delegate Mitchell makes a great speech and I am tremendously impressed with her speech, but not with her logic and arguments.

We have to keep this within the framework of the government. If you look at the case that I cite there, the court points out that people are voting on the constitution as we provide it and not on the speeches of delegates. I hope you will adopt my amendment. I offer it in the spirit of trying to get everybody together with me. I thought Delegate Sickles was with me. I hope that he is. We are not changing the public employment in accordance with the present practice.

I hope everyone will support the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Fox.

DELEGATE FOX: I move the previous question.

*(Whereupon, the motion was duly seconded.)*