

J. A. Baker to Governor Henry Allen

J. a. Baker, the secretary of the Central Labor Union in Parsons, Kansas, sends Kansas Governor Henry Allen, of Topeka, a resolution protesting the proposed industrial court legislation. Baker refers to the resolution as the most autocratic and un-American legislation ever proposed in Kansas. The industrial court legislation was passed into law in 1920 but remained on the books for only a few years when it was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court.

Creator: Central Labor Union

Date: January 2, 1920

Callnumber: Governors Office Governor Henry Allen Box 11 Folder Industrial Relations Court "B"

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Executive Officers

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Affiliated with A. F. of L. and K. S. F. of L.

Meets Every 2nd and 4th Friday Nights
at Labor Temple, 1809 1/2 Broadway

CENTRAL LABOR UNION

PARSONS, KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Legislative Committee

I. A. BAKER, Chairman
C. M. CARPENTER
W. K. LYND
E. H. JONES
FRANK EVERY

Parsons, Kansas, Jan. 2d 1920.

Hon. Governor Henry Allen.

Topeka Kansas.

Dear Sir: Attached you will find a resolution protesting the enactment of the proposed Legislation, which you have called a special session of the Legislature to enact.

We are opposed to the enactment of this Legislation, because we believe it to be, undemocratic unpatriotic and unamerican. All the sacrifices that Labor made in this great struggle that has just ended, and all the promises that we have received, that out of this conflict we would receive industrial democracy and freedom as well as world democracy and freedom, we are now to receive those promises in the form of the Cummins Bill and the Legislation you have in mind.

We do not believe in strikes, there is no one that feels the pinch of hunger quicker than the one who is on strike, but to Legislate the workers out of the only weapon they have to force an unwilling employer to terms of justice is unthinkable.

Laws of this kind has been tried in England and has failed, and we have no doubt if enacted in this country will also fail. Woodrow Wilson has said "the right to bargain collectively must be recognized, and the right to strike cannot be denied" yet there is a few people in the State of Kansas, as well as in the Nation, that would like to see, the workers shackled and compelled to serve their employer, regardless of what the conditions might be, and the compensation paid. There is one thing that has not been denied Labor as yet, although it would not surprise us that it would be attempted in the future, and that is the right to vote.

And as we have that right, there is one bright thought in our minds and, that is, that in the future there will be another election day in the State of Kansas, and when that election day comes, there is a few men in the State of Kansas, that is going to receive special and careful consideration.

With best wishes, I am yours for a free State and a free Nation,

J. A. Baker Sec'y

Parsons Central Labor Union.



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Parsons, Kansas, _____ 19____

WHEREAS Governor Allen has called a special session of the State Legislature to convene January the 5th 1920: for the purpose of considering the enactment of an anti strike Law. This proposed measurer which has the endorsement of the State Administration, will forbid the workers the right to sever their connection with their employer, and

WHEREAS: we beleive this proposed measurer is the most autocratic and unAmerican peice of Legislation ever preposed in the State of Kansas and its sole purpose is to intimidate the workers and at the same time to distract attention from the seccalled special interest group and,

WHEREAS: as patricetic Law abiding and liberty loveing Citizens, and have a fair conception of the functioning of our State Government, we ask that these intrusted with its direction and Administration do their whole duty and,

WHEREAS: today Labor is giving more attention to Governmental affairs than ever before, no popular cry of Bolshevism or reds has excited them or swept them off their feet, but down deep in mind of every worker is the thought that the few who controls the necessaries of life are the real cause of the present industrial conflict.

Therefore be it RESOLVED

That the Parsons Central Labor Union in regular session assembled pretest and ask our Representatives to vote and use their influence against this unAmerican Law. And be it further RESOLVED;

That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this organization and a copy forwarded to Governor Allen, and one to each of our Representatives and a copy furnished to each of our daily papers for publication.

Unanimously adopted.

December the 26th 1919.

J. A. Baker. Sec'y

Parsons Central Labor Union.

