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Edward J. Meeman to Dr. Silver, 21 February 1944

Edward J. (Edward John) Meeman (1889-1966)

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Memphis Press-Scimitar

EDWARD J. MEEMAN
EDITOR

Feb. 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Silver:

The attached is on the subject we discussed.

I greatly enjoyed meeting you. I hope you will let me know when you are coming to Memphis and that our respective schedules on that day will make it possible for you to have lunch with me.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J. W. Silver
University, Mississippi

gressmen. Why exempt Congress? I am told these facts are often garbled in | selves.

Pegler Skips It—But It's Part of the Labor Picture

By EDWARD J. MEEMAN
Editor, Memphis Press-Scimitar
Discussing George Q. Lynch, president of the Pattern Makers League, Westbrook Pegler said:

"I shall skip those portions of a speech he made to the Harvard School of Business Administration which deal with the old sins of industry against labor because they are a familiar matter, whereas his ideas of union responsibility and conduct are unique among union leaders."

The old sins of industry against labor are not a familiar matter to the readers of Pegler's column because he habitually skips them.

Yet they are a very large part of the present labor picture. For it was only yesterday that labor was struggling for the right to organize and was met in more than one



MEEMAN

place by labor spies and strong-arm men hired by employers to prevent them from associating for collective presentation of their viewpoint and needs.

Workingmen suspect that some of these same employers, who are still very much alive, have not changed, and would return to those pre-Roosevelt practices if they could. These workingmen are not giving to Pegler and other expositors of the sins of union leaders the attention and confidence which those exposures deserve, because Pegler and other labor critics, if they have understanding and sympathy for workingmen's needs, if they have memory of the bitter past, have failed to express it adequately. They skip it.

It is true that Communists control some labor unions. It is true that racketeers control others. It is true that some workingmen are exploited by unions. It is true that some unions take advantage of employers and the nation. It is true

that there must be reform of these conditions or there will be a public reaction against organized labor. Pegler has courageously and brilliantly performed a national service in pointing out these things.

But the rank and file of organized labor will give a much more attentive ear to these criticisms, and will more likely be busy to correct them, if Pegler and other critics will go to the trouble to show that they are also aware that labor unions are indispensable, not only to the good of the workingman, but for the democracy and freedom of all of us; that all of the people who used to exploit labor have not had a change of heart, but some of them are itching for a chance to return to the old tyranny; that even in these times labor still has some unsatisfied needs and uncorrected grievances which deserve sympathetic attention.

If they will not "skip it," there can be a common ground on which

critics and intelligent, decent labor union men can unite to make organized labor the clean, responsible, strong element which the democracy needs.

Industrial Civil War

By NICHOLAS MURRAY
President Columbia U.

We should settle industrial problems by conference of labor, and the industry should be brought to a point where it destroys industry and turns over to laborism.

Reminiscences

By THE P
British Minis
The Germ
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and every