

Liberty

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TO H--- WITH THE CONSTITUTION — PERHAPS?



BERNARR
MACFADDEN

What is the matter with this country? Why is it we are credited with being the last to recover from the world-wide depression? As the wealthiest nation in the world we should have been the first. It will require but a few words to find one of the answers to that important query, and it is my belief that practically every reader of these lines will be in full agreement.

We are supposed to be governed by a Constitution. What knowledge has the average citizen of the contents of this document? Probably less than one per cent of our citizens has ever read it, consequently our officials can ignore governmental principles with little fear of criticism. There is the full explanation of much of our present troubles.

A large part of the socialistic legislation that has been passed by the New Deal is contrary to the definite restrictions set down in this document. Amendment No. 5 of the Constitution provides that no person "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Again, from the Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." How many laws have been made by the New Deal that abridge our privileges?

Standing out with sacrilegious effrontery is the Wagner Act, and four judges of the United States Supreme Court were apparently in full agreement with this viewpoint. Can Senator Wagner for one minute maintain that his labor law does not abridge privileges of both the employer and employee?

The intelligent citizen of this country would like the senator to tell us why he entirely disregarded in his labor law this particular constitutional ruling which he had sworn to honor and respect. He tells us in reply to a recent Liberty editorial that the Wagner Act has benefited labor and capital, calls attention to his belief that there has been less strife in the labor world since its enactment, and yet every astute citizen will acknowledge that the first year after the Wagner Act was passed we had more violent labor difficulties than in any previous period.

The sit-down strikes closely followed the passage of this law. Official Washington countenanced the abridgment of these constitutional privileges without a word of protest, and it was a blow to industry that put millions of workers on the unemployment list and drove literally billions of dollars into hiding.

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Why invest money in industry? Why start new businesses, and why try to promote and increase business if we are to be harassed by unconstitutional legislation and back-breaking taxes. At the present time labor appears to have "settled down," but business men, investors generally, have stabilized and restricted their holdings. They are taking just as little risk as possible, haunted by the constant fear of the future attitude of this government.

Our lawmakers, under the whiplash of the New Deal, have abridged many of the privileges of our citizens. If this administration had worked under the rules of constitutional government, they would have tried to repeal the clauses in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, which clearly state that there should be no abridgment of the privileges or immunities of the citizens of these United States. But no official in the New Deal government dared to attempt such a procedure. They knew in advance this would be impossible, so they disregarded this restriction, realizing that our citizens never read the Constitution and know nothing of its contents.

If we desire to continue as a free country, there are certain clauses in the Constitution that should be placed in our schoolbooks, from the primer class upward. We should know the nature of our rights; we should know how to protect them.

Selfish officials acquire power and then try to perpetuate themselves—leaning toward a tyrannical dictatorship. We often find elected officials devoting much of their time to effect a re-election. They are not open to severe censure, but when they take the oath of office to uphold and respect and honor the rules of our Constitution and our system of government, and then proceed to disregard this sacred trust, they are guilty of traitorous conduct, and traitors during wartime are shot at sunrise. And even during peacetime there should be rules to protect our citizens from official acts that threaten the privileges that have made us the greatest nation in the world. Remember "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge [limit, lessen, reduce] the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

If you have helped to elect a Washington representative who has voted for legislation which disregards this restriction, write and ask him for an explanation of why he violated his oath of office.

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