

# THE BULLETIN

OF THE MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS FEDERAL TAX LEAGUE

VOL. VI

CHICAGO, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1928.

No. 4.

## DR. FRANK "OVERLOOKS" THE MAIN POINT THE INCREASING BURDEN OF TAXATION

Readers of this paper will recall that on September 29, a letter was addressed to President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin by Emil O. Jorgensen, Secretary of the Education Protective Association, stating that a resolution passed by the Board of Regents in 1925 regarding "gifts, donations and subsidies" from corporations, was being grossly disregarded by Profs. Hubbard, Glaeser and Wehrwein and asking Pres. Frank either to enforce this resolution or have it repealed.

On December 7 President Frank answered Secretary Jorgensen requesting specific proof that any professors in Wisconsin University have "deliberately changed" their views or "colored" their scholarships "as a result of subsidies received from private interests, but failing entirely to make any reference to the Board of Regents' resolution which was the main issue in the letter to him. Pres. Frank's letter follows:

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Madison

December 7, 1928.

Office of the President.  
Mr. Emil O. Jorgensen,  
1244 Alameda Street, Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Jorgensen:

I apologize for this tardy reply to your letter about Wehrwein, Glaeser, and Hubbard and the Ely Institute. This letter had not reached me at the time you released it, or a digest of it, to the press.

I have communicated the contents of your letter to the men in question. They suggest that they would be delighted to have you present any specific proof of your contentions to the Board of Regents, and that they would be delighted to attend a meeting of the Board with you so that your material could be considered in an open conference participated in by you, by them, and by the members of the Board of Regents. I presented your letter to the Board along with this suggestion from the men you mention. The Board asked me to say that they preferred to have you submit your material in writing. If you have any material more specific than your letter of September 29, I should appreciate your sending it to me.

Any professor of the University of Wisconsin is free to express his opinion in behalf either of public ownership or of private ownership as the result of his studies may dictate to him. The fact that a man may be on one side or the other of this question is not in itself an evidence of a scholarship that is controlled or colored by outside interests. The fact that a man submits for advance criticism the manuscript of a book to the groups or interests affected by it is not in itself evidence of a scholarship that is colored or controlled by outside interests. My own judgment is that every bit of social research should run the gamut of all parties, groups and interests affected by it. It remains for the scholar to distinguish between criticism that is valid and criticism that is dictated by the desire to protect vested interests. Scholarship should not and cannot operate in a vacuum.

If you have specific proof that any scholar at the University of Wisconsin has deliberately changed the clear results of his research at the dictation of any private or anti-social interest, if you have any specific proof that any scholar at the University of Wisconsin has accepted money for coloring his scholarship for propagandist uses by anti-social interests, I shall be glad to have the proof and the Board will be glad to have the proof. But neither the administrative officers of the University nor the Board of Regents should act upon general assertions.

Very sincerely yours,

GLENN FRANK.

On December 29 Secretary Jorgensen replied to the above letter stating that President Frank has overlooked the main point; that proof could be submitted that certain professors at Wisconsin University had "colored" their views as a result of the favors and subsidies accepted from private interests, but that it was unnecessary to submit such proof so long as it could be shown that the Board of Regents' resolution, forbidding such favors and subsidies, was being disregarded by these professors. In this same reply Mr. Jorgensen again goes into detail showing how, through their connections with the Ely Institute, Profs. Hubbard, Glaeser and Wehrwein are ignoring the Regents' position and as a consequence "coloring" their scholarships "to fit the views of the corporations favoring them. He closes his letter by once more respectfully asking Pres. Frank to see that the resolution is enforced.

We regret that space prevents Secretary Jorgensen's letter, which is being sent to the Board of Regents and other prominent persons in Wisconsin, from being printed here. Copies may, however, be secured by addressing the Education Protective Association, 1344 Alameda St., Chicago.

## CHAIN STORES INCREASE; CHAIN FARMING BEGINS

Chain stores in the United States are multiplying at a prodigious rate. 500 new stores are to be added to the 1,078 now operated by J. C. Penney Co.,—and they are all going into the smaller towns. In 1928 a total of \$8237,913,000 of new money was invested in chain stores which is more than the total amount invested in this form of merchandizing in the three years preceding.

Meanwhile chain methods of farming are getting a good start. Near Champaign, Ill., are 32 farms comprising a total of 7,500 acres which for four years have been run by a local bank on the "chain store" plan. In the west and south the system is in vogue on a much larger scale. The days of farm peasantry and of large landed estates, it seems, are close at hand. Only one thing can spare America from this great social danger and that is the exemption of improvements and the taxation of land values only.

## THE INCREASING BURDEN OF TAXATION

According to an article appearing in the "Nation's Business" for January the total burden of taxation in the United States is now \$10,783,971,127, of which \$3,781,332,953 represents federal taxes, \$1,485,242,240 state taxes and \$5,517,392,934 local taxes. The most striking thing about these figures is the astounding growth of local revenues as compared with previous years. In Chicago the Civic Federation has recently published a bulletin showing that the total amount of local and state taxes actually billed in the city was \$52,701,243 in 1914; \$90,823,873 in 1920 and \$206,045,662 in 1927. At such a rate the limit must soon be reached.

## CHICAGO'S REASSESSMENT WORK IN GRAVE DANGER

The work of revaluing scientifically the real estate in Chicago and Cook County for taxation purposes is in grave danger. The job is half completed but a supreme court decision now threatens to stop the whole procedure and unless private money to the extent of \$200,000 or more is raised the task will be stopped.

Briefly the situation is this: After the State Tax Commission ordered the re-assessment some months ago, and some \$800,000 had been appropriated by the County Board to finance the work a suit was brought to restrain the County Treasurer from paying anyone more than \$10,000 a day—the maximum that the law allows. Since the experts in charge of the revaluation were hired at salaries running from \$10 up to \$75 a day, another suit was brought and carried to the Supreme Court to compel the Treasurer to pay the skilled appraisers the wages agreed upon by the assessors. The suit was lost. The Supreme Court held that \$10 a day was the maximum that could be paid.

Although some five hundred men have been at work for some time and the revaluation is practically half finished the experts in charge refuse longer to stay on the job unless they are paid the salaries due them. This means that a fund of some \$200,000 or more will promptly have to be raised from private sources. But where will this money suddenly come from and who will raise it?

Meanwhile not a dollar of taxes can be collected from last year's assessment, as that assessment has been declared by the State Tax Commission to be illegal; therefore unless the new assessment is completed no tax bills can be sent out and there will be no money in the treasury this coming year to meet the expenses and pay the employees of the local governments. What the outcome is going to be the Lord only knows.

## SEN. WALSH INTRODUCES BILL TO STOP PROPAGANDA

Senator Walsh of Montana has introduced into the United States Senate a bill to stop the sapping expeditions against the integrity of our schools and colleges by special interests that desire to use them to advance their own selfish ends. The bill (S. 4706) reads as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation engaged in interstate commerce, or for any officer, agent, or representative thereof, or of any group, association or other organization maintained by one or more such persons, firms, or corporations, to offer or to give anything of value to any teacher or member of any school board or board of education to induce him to write or revise, or in consideration of his having written or revised any textbook or other printed or written matter for use in any school or schools, or to induce the use in any school of any particular textbook or printed matter, or to teach or expound any doctrine, dogma or theory with intent to influence opinion in favor of any particular governmental action or public policy advocated by or beneficial to such person, firm or corporation or the business in which he or it may be engaged.

"Any person violating the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Here, in view of the disclosures made by the Federal Trade Commission in its investigation of the public utilities, is a badly needed piece of legislation. Its purpose is to prevent the control of thought and it is therefore simply a corollary of the principle that there must be, in our schools and colleges, absolute freedom of thought. The bill should be passed.

## FOURTEEN YEARS CREATE 23,000 NEW MILLIONAIRES

The millionaires of the United States now number between 30,000 and 40,000 according to an estimate presented recently before the American Statistical Association by Carl Snyder of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. In 1914, he said, the number of millionaires was only 7,000. This post-war increase in the number of great fortunes Mr. Snyder attributes to the "enormous rise in the value of securities."

It would be interesting to know, in this connection, just how much of these securities represented legitimate industry and how much represented the capitalized profits of monopoly.

# THE BULLETIN

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Our Public School System is dear and sacred to the heart of every patriotic citizen, and the man or woman who undertakes to undermine that system of public education by secret and false propaganda and misrepresentation is an enemy to our country. —Senator George D. Norris of Nebraska.

### SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Two new movements have recently been launched which, if conscientiously carried out, will do much to stop the stream of propaganda now being poured into our educational system by selfish interests.

The first is the appointment of a committee of ten by the National Education Association to investigate the whole question of propaganda in the schools and report its findings at the next annual convention. The N. E. A. has long been known for its conservatism in matters of this sort but with Secretary Chubb's recent denunciation of propaganda in our public schools as a "crime against youth" and the appointment of Dr. Edwin C. Broome, Superintendent of the Philadelphia schools as the chairman of its investigating committee, it is hoped and believed that something substantial will come of it.

The second is the formation of an organization in Washington, D. C., known as the "Save-Our-Schools Committee" with Bishop Phelan of McClellan as Chairman, Prof. John Dewey as Vice-Chairman, and Meier G. Johnson as Secretary. This Committee already has a large representation in 26 states among which are many faculty members from various colleges and universities.

We have one hundred per cent faith in the courage and integrity of the leading officers—Bishop McConnell, Prof. Dewey and Mr. Johnson—but we are rather skeptical about the Committee's representatives in so many of our colleges and universities. If the Committee's attempt to stop propaganda in the schools is to be of any avail it must necessarily mention names—actual names of men and books—in order to distinguish propaganda from what is legitimate teaching. But when names start to be mentioned there is grave danger that the Committee's guns may be spiked by its own members. We may be wrong—indeed, we hope so—but we do know that if propaganda is to be eliminated from the schools it will have to be done by something more effective than general denunciation.

### A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

Two items appearing recently in the same issue of the daily press, invite comment. The first is taken from the speech of Mr. H. G. Zander, President of the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

"In Chicago, there was a certain piece of property that could not be sold for \$30,000 five years ago. Recently, after street improvements had been made, it sold for more than \$1,000,000. This unearned increment was handed to the owner on a silver platter by the entire city of Chicago, which paid the cost of improvement by a bond issue spread over the whole city."

The second item is headed "A Forced Loan" and occurred in San Francisco.

"Give me your name and address and I'll return this money when I get a job," said a robber as he took \$22 from Charles Sango here recently. "My form is hungry," he continued, "and needs it worse than you do."

At first glance the two items appear unrelated, but on second thought, the query rises, if the same policy that awards unearned wealth in the first item, is it not seriously implicated in depriving wealth or opportunity for wealth in the second item? Consider: Chicago by its expenditure, augmented the land value of all owners bordering the improved street—this particular owner obtaining \$970,000 for nothing. Chicago, like San Francisco and many other cities, instead of obtaining its revenue from this unearned increment or land value, occasioned by its own activities, derives, as usually estimated, about four-fifths of its revenue from taxes levied upon industry and the products of labor.

This taxation of industry not only increases prices, hence the cost of living, but also oppresses all enterprise and individual initiative. The comparatively light tax upon land values, in comparison with the ever increasing increment in growing communities, induces naturally the speculative spirit; so that most of the land of any value is held by owners at a rather excessive figure. This fact is a seriously important factor in our economic adjustment.

It has the exceedingly disastrous effect of obliging the graduating youth from schools and colleges, to compete with the workers already employed in the limited industrial field now open.

The days of "equality of opportunity," when the boys could easily obtain land and provide their loved ones with a crude but comfortable living, have gone; so now, when all the above mentioned labor power is pressing for entrance into the field of industry, already filled to the limit, the results are certainly deplorable, as noted in the second item. With the responsibility of a growing family, it is surely "hell" to be out of a job.

Allowing the above connection of the two items to be correct and that such a condition confronts us, would it not be wise for us to modify our present tax laws? Would it not be productive of greater welfare for the graduates and involuntary unemployed, if a sufficient amount of this publicly created unearned increment were taken gradually, until ultimately, industry was entirely relieved of taxation? Such action would be a positive incentive and stimulation to the industrial world; incidentally calling for more workers, and at the same time cutting down the cost of living.

—S. S. Taber.

### ELY'S PROPAGANDA GOING INTO 1,700 HIGH SCHOOLS

The Education Protective Association is anxious to learn the particular high schools and state-supported colleges in which the "Elementary Principles of Economics" by Ely and Wicker is being used. This textbook has recently been revised to conform to the teachings of the subsidized Ely Institute in Northwestern University and according to a survey made some years ago by the American Federation of Labor it is at this time being taught in approximately 1,700 high schools. Any information as to what schools are using this textbook, coupled, if possible, with the names of members on the Board of Education will be greatly appreciated by the Education Protective Association of America. Address the Association at 1344 Alameda St., Chicago.

The Single Tax will make undeserved poverty impossible. It will do away with the demoralizing struggle for a living. It will make it possible for men to be just, honest, reasonable and noble, if they desire to be so. —Count Leo Tolstoy, Russia, 1910.

Trying to tax individuals according to ability to pay results in paying tribute to individuals according to ability to tax.

A young literary applicant strolled impatiently into the office of a well-known daily paper. "Well, did you read my poem?" he asked the editor. "Oh, yes, long before you did," was the reply.

### Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc., Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.

Of Bulletin of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, published quarterly at Chicago, Illinois, for October 1, 1928.

### STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss.

CORCYL G. COOK, ss.  
Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Earl O. Jorgensen, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the Bulletin of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true and correct copy of the publication for the month of August 24, 1912, contained in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:  
Publisher: Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, 1346 Alameda Street, Chicago.  
Editor: Earl O. Jorgensen, 1346 Alameda St., Chicago.  
Managing Editor: none.  
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2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities; or, if none.)  
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EARL O. JORGENSEN, Editor.  
Seem to read subscribed before me this 14th day of October, 1928.  
F. C. RAYPAKZAK,  
Notary Public,  
(My commission expires Jan. 24, 1929.)  
(SEAL)

If you do not get THE BULLETIN regularly please advise us.

# THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR REVERSES ITS DECISION

After Befriending the Ely Institute At Its Los Angeles Convention in 1927, the A. F. of L. at Its New Orleans Convention in 1928, Passes Resolution Condemning It

## DELEGATE VICTOR OLANDER OF ILLINOIS ASSAILS THE EDUCATION PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION ON THE FLOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY

"You can fool all of the people some of the time," said Lincoln, "but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

That observation would seem to apply just as well to delegates of the American Federation of Labor as it does to the rest of humanity.

In 1926 and 1927 the American Federation of Teachers made an investigation of Prof. Richard T. Ely's "Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities" in Northwestern University. The teachers found, not merely that the Institute was subsidized by special interests with huge axes to grind, but that it was "misusing the conception of research" and "masquerading under false colors"—in other words, that the Institute was carrying on, for the real estate boards and the public utilities backing it—propaganda under the label of "disinterested research." Realizing that such dishonesty in education was a danger to the entire school system, Florence Curtis Hanson—the Secretary of the American Federation of Teachers—introduced a resolution into the annual convention of the A. F. of L. urging that body to join them in condemning the Ely Institute and to aid in keeping its books out of the tax-supported schools, colleges and universities of the United States.

The resolution, strange to say, was turned down—could! Not merely that but a motion to have the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. conduct an independent investigation of the Ely Institute was also turned down—thanks chiefly to the eloquence—and mental gymnastics—of Mr. Victor Olander, Secretary of the Illinois Federation of Labor.

Feeling that a gross injustice had been done to the American Federation of Teachers and that the majority of the delegates in the A. F. of L. convention had been misled, Mr. Emil O. Jorgensen, Secretary of the Education Protective Association of America, undertook to make a complete analysis of the case. This analysis was set forth in an illustrated, 70-page pamphlet and published under the title of "The Struggle for Honest Education."

When the American Federation of Labor met in annual convention at New Orleans in November of this year, Mrs. Hanson again introduced her resolution calling attention to the Ely Institute and asking the A. F. of L. to aid in keeping out of the schools and colleges the books prepared by such "propaganda Institutes." The resolution was referred to the Education Committee.

Feeling that the resolution ought to be passed but expecting that a bitter fight would be made upon it on the floor of the convention the Education Committee endeavored to lessen opposition by omitting from the resolution specific mention of the Ely Institute, at the same time leaving the form and substance of the resolution intact.

The expected fight developed. When the Committee's report was read on the floor Delegate Olander again rose in opposition, repeated his mental gyrations of a year before, delivered a tirade of abuse against the Education Protective Association and its Secretary in particular, and in other ways sought to swing the convention into a mood necessary to turn the resolution down. But the effort proved futile. The resolution as reported by the Education Committee was passed.

The following extracts taken from the daily "Report of Pioneering Morning Session, pp. 327-330) shows the resolution as amended by the Education Committee and the debate that took place on the floor of the convention:

Your committee has made some slight changes in the wording of Resolution No. 82 and recommends concurrence in this resolution with these changes.

**Opposing Use of Public Schools to Spread Propaganda of Special Interests**  
Resolution No. 82.—By Delegate Florence Curtis Hanson of the American Federation of Teachers:

### DUNCAN SPEAKS TO THE A. F. B. F.

George H. Duncan of New Hampshire, tax expert and well known disciple of Henry George, recently delivered a splendid address before the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago. In the course of his address he availed himself of the opportunity to take a crack at the Ely Institute. Mr. Duncan said in part:

"In recent months the country has been stirred by the disclosures before the Federal Trade Commission of veiled propaganda carried on to influence public thought through newspapers and schools regarding electric utilities. In this city of Chicago, also, is an institution which, under the guise of 'Research,' is seeking to mold thought on taxation through our educational centers. No ideas can gain understanding and acceptance without presentation. That you may have no misunderstanding of my position I make bold to declare it.

"I represent no one but myself. The tax philosophy which I have tried to explain is not new. If you turn to the twenty-fifth chapter of Leviticus, in the Mosaic Law, you will find how Moses treated the subject. Coming along down through the ages, students and seers and practical politicians have grappled with the problem. But it remained for one of our competitors, the 'Prophet of San Francisco' to apply the natural law of man's relation to his Mother Earth to the problems of modern society by the system unfortunately termed the 'Single Tax.' For taxes cannot be single; community-created values, chiefly in land, must be measured in more than one way. We only suggest that in some rational way we take them for community expenses. You need not fear; change can come only when the people demand it. But the problem for us is pressing; perhaps our very civilization depends upon its successful solution. And, whether you believe in it or not, I can assure you that you will have a deeper comprehension of life if you acquaint yourself with the writings of one of the country's greatest thinkers, Henry George."

WHEREAS, Exposures of the Federal Trade Commission have shown that the special interests are seeking every opportunity to use the public schools to spread their propaganda; and

WHEREAS, It has also been shown that there is gross misuse of the conception of research, institutes posing as research institutes being in reality propaganda institutes subsidized by special interests; and

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor believes that the public schools of this country which belong to the people, with their carrying political and economic convictions, should provide for the presentation and the discussion of both sides of controversial questions, but should not be exploited for the purpose of advancing the particular conviction or beliefs of any groups; and

WHEREAS, The American Federation of Labor has always actively opposed the use of the schools and universities of the country for propaganda of any nature; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor goes on record as unambiguously opposed to all efforts of private or public service corporations and of real estate boards and other private corporations to inject covert propaganda into the public schools and universities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor condemn as unworthy the confidence and trust of the American people those institutions which have been proven to be subsidized by special interests and which are carrying on, under the guise of disinterested research, propaganda in favor of the interests which are subsidizing them, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor oppose all efforts to have text books specially prepared by and for these interests introduced into our tax-supported schools, colleges and universities, and use its influence to have such specially prepared text books removed where now in use; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor standing Committee on Education be instructed to continue its studies of text books used in tax-supported schools with these considerations especially in mind and to forward information concerning these matters at the earliest possible date to state federations, central labor bodies, local unions and affiliated national and international unions.

DELEGATE OLANDER  
(Seaman's International Union)

In discussing the resolution and the report of the committee, Delegate Olander said in part: I use to oppose the report of the committee. In view of the fact that my experience during the past year as well as at the last convention leave before me certain interpretations of what is intended by the committee's report, I find myself obliged to speak in opposition to it, notwithstanding the fact that in the light of what has occurred during the past twelve months I am wholly conscious of the fact that what I am about to say will probably be misrepresented during the coming year, just as the action of the committee of which I was a member last year has been misrepresented during the past twelve months.

The committee has redrafted the resolution, but they have made no change of any consequence, as I caught the reading, except that in the redraft they make provision calling upon our movement to institute a movement to have certain books removed from the tax supported schools.

Now, what is meant by that? I take it that since the same author that introduced this resolution presented another resolution on the subject a year ago that the meaning is the same in both instances. A year ago a resolution was presented in the Los Angeles convention which proposed that all local and affiliated bodies of the American Federation of Labor put forth every effort to have all text and reference books prepared by the Ely Institute barred from the tax supported schools, colleges and universities of the United States. The proposal, as indicated by other language in the resolution, was to have them barred not only as text books but as reference books, and we were to call upon our central bodies and state federations of labor to secure legal action to bar these books. We said a year ago that that proposal was exactly the same in principle as the attempt to throttle education in the State of Tennessee by action of the legislature. This resolution proposes the same sort of thing.

I am not interested in the Ely Institute or anything of that sort, and if anybody thought that by dropping the name of the particular institute I might be silenced on the question of text books in public schools, they were very much mistaken. One year ago the following report was submitted to this convention.

"Resolution No. 51 proposes that the American Federation of Labor put forth every effort to have certain text and reference books (barred from the tax-supported schools, colleges and universities of the United States.) The resolution charges that the Ely Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, under whose auspices the text and reference books referred to are published, is engaged in propaganda intended to promote views not in record with those held by the American Federation of Labor on the subject of taxation. Boldly stated, the proposal is that the American Federation of Labor set itself up as a judge to determine not only what text books shall be permitted in the public schools and the state colleges and state universities, but also to even limit the use of books for reference purposes in such institutions in cases where such books are regarded as antagonistic to views held by the American Federation of Labor. This we believe would not only be a dangerous denial of free speech and free press but would also be a very serious violation of the principle of academic freedom.

"It is often extremely difficult to ascertain what is truth in a given case and the opportunity must always be left free for the statement of conflicting views and for the clash of opposing opinions. This is as essential in schools, colleges and universities for teachers and for pupils as it is in the every day affairs of political and industrial life."

That was the substance of the report one year ago. I say that Resolution No. 82, as originally introduced by the same author, unquestionably had the same purpose, and the redraft which comes from the committee contains in essence the same proposal. Now, what use has been made of that during the past year? The convention of the American Federation of Labor at Los Angeles stood firm for academic freedom, and we were right. One of the things that goes to prove we were right was that upon my return to Chicago I received from one of the officers of the American Association of University Professors congratulations upon the action taken and furnishing me with a copy of the action of that association on academic freedom and tenure. I commend to those who are responsible for those sort of resolutions a careful reading of that document.

I have here some of the propaganda literature that was sent out following the action of the Los Angeles Convention which represents the action as a defense of

## THE A. F. OF L. REVERSES ITS DECISION—Continued

the Ely Institute, and has very little to say about the fact that we were standing for academic freedom. Here is a sample of some of that literature: "Special Privilege Secured Big Victory!" That is the headline on a document contained in a book issued by the Education Protective Association of America, Inc. In the preface of the volume this appears:

"Grateful acknowledgments are hereby extended to the Chicago Daily News for the use of several photographs, to the American Federation of Teachers for permission to reprint much valuable material, to Mr. Ed. R. Derrickson for permission to publish his letter to William Green, and to all others whose kindly assistance has done much to make this book what it is."

On page 39 there appears, over a picture of myself, "Did Not Want the Ely Institute Investigated?" and below "Victor A. Olander, Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor and a leading opponent of the Teachers in the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor."

On page 43, over a photograph of President Green, there appears this headline: "Had the Facts but Said Nothing?" and below, "William Green, President of The American Federation of Labor and Chairman of the convention at which the resolution presented by the teachers was defeated."

I would not be particularly concerned about what some wandering sailor of fortune, such as the irresponsible author of this publication is, in my opinion, but when I find that he is permitted to send out circulars alleging that the American Federation of Labor in the passage of the Los Angeles action of the committee with regard to school text books was an attack on the American Federation of Teachers and calls others to rally to the defense of the teachers, and there is no denial on the part of that organization, it does give me concern. I have heard that some of its officials have repudiated this. I have been in contact with several of them throughout the year, and that repudiation, if any was made, has failed to reach my ears, and not longer past than the current issue of the official organ of the American Federation of Teachers the author of that publication misrepresenting the attitude of the American Federation of Labor is given further space for misrepresentation.

I say that is an unfortunate situation. If I did not have this information of the misuse made of the Los Angeles Convention before me I might be misled into accepting the report of the committee, with the original proposition of the author for the removal of text books, because without that interpretation that might be harmless.

After all, Mr. Chairman, someone somewhere has to make a decision as to what sort of text books are to be used, and there are occasions where books are found to be utterly unfit, and for that reason there is something in the report of the committee if presented under other circumstances; but to say, as was proposed a year ago and as I believe the author of the resolution intends now, that because a book does not please us we are not only going to challenge it as a text book but we are going to have it barred as a reference book, I say to you that, at least as far as affecting our universities, there never was a book written that ought to be barred as a reference book. If we are going to have universities and schools their shelves must be wide open at least for reference purposes, and the challenge, if there is any, must come to the use of particular books for text book purposes.

I have remained silent during the year. Members of the Teachers' Organization came to me and said they had not agreed to the resolution of a year ago and that it had never passed their convention. I think it is exceedingly unfortunate that the sort of publicity engaged in by this Education Protective Association has been permitted to go on through the year, the American Federation of Teachers and its officers misrepresented, and nothing said about it.

Delegate Nelson, Chicago: That is an important question. If we refer it to the Executive Council it can be thoroughly thrashed out and any doubts as to the position of the American Federation of Labor would be removed by action of the Executive Council. I am willing to defer to the chairman of the committee.

DELEGATE WALKER  
(Chairman of the Committee)

This resolution has been in the hands of the committee since the beginning of the convention. Announcements have been made on the floor of the convention of the meetings of the committee, and all interested in any resolution before the committee were invited to meet with us and take up these matters. This resolution is not Mrs. Hanson's resolution, it is the resolution of this committee. While I understand Delegate Olander's capacity with reference to the English language, I doubt very much if he had a copy of the resolution in its changed form before him, so that he could find any ambiguity that would justify his doubt as to what his meaning would be declared to be if it is adopted, that he could find anything in the resolution to object to.

I have worked with Vie for ten years or more, and even on the basis of a misapprehension on his part I would rather pursue the course that would be satisfactory, but the two essential sections of the resolution say:

"RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor goes on record as unalterably opposed to all efforts of private of public service corporations and of real estate boards and other private corporations to inject covert propaganda into the public schools and universities; and, be it further

"RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor condemn as unworthy the confidence and trust of the American people those institutions which have been proven to be subsidized by special interests and which are carrying on, under the guise of disinterested research, propaganda in favor of the interests which are subsidizing them, and, be it further

"RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor oppose all efforts to have text books specially prepared by and for these interests introduced into our tax-supported schools, colleges and universities, and use its influence to have such specially prepared text books removed where now in use; and, be it further" That is, where they are prepared by and for these specific private corporations that are mentioned.

Delegate Olander: Can you name a single book in any school anywhere especially prepared for the purpose indicated in this resolution?

Chairman Walker: If there isn't a single book that is especially prepared by and for a corporation of this kind, then the resolution does not apply to it. Unless it can be proven that it was prepared by and for that special interest this resolution does not apply to it, and my feelings is that there is no one in our movement who would go farther to remove a book prepared by and for a special interest than would Secretary Olander.

Delegate Olander: Am I right in assuming that what the committee has in mind is to reach this situation recently exposed by the Federal Trade Commission, wherein it is alleged that public service corporations are responsible for matter in parts of a book, then I am not opposed to the report.

Chairman Walker: It would apply to such cases as were brought out in the Federal Trade Commission hearing. In that case this report would apply. Unless copious proof was brought out this would not refer to those books. There can be no misunderstanding of the meaning of that report, and I don't believe there is a member of the American Federation of Labor that would want a book prepared by and for a special corporate interest introduced as a text book in our schools, and that is the only thing it has reference to.

## PITY THE AMERICAN ASS'N OF UNIV. PROFESSORS!

"The American Association of University Professors was called upon today by the American Political Science Association, in convention here, to investigate college and university professors and educators charged with accepting salaries from public utilities. Any professors who cannot clear their names, in the opinion of the political scientists, should be forced out of the educational system of the country."—Chicago Evening American, Dec. 29, 1928.

Dear den, now what is the American Association of University Professors going to do? Up to the present time the Association has been doing all it could to protect the very "educators" whom it is now urged to force out of the educational system of the country.

In 1926, for instance, the case of Prof. Richard T. Ely and his subsidized institute was fully laid before the Association by Mr. Emil O. Jorgensen who charged that Prof. Ely was deliberately carrying on, under the false pretense of "research," propaganda in favor of the real estate and public utility corporations back of him, and who asked that a careful investigation be made of the Ely Institute and that it be either vindicated or condemned. After six months of side-stepping and delay Dr. H. W. Tyler, the Secretary of the Association at Cambridge, Mass., wrote to Mr. Jorgensen the following brief letter dated January 27, 1927:

"In reply to your note of January 25, I have to state that the subject was presented at the meeting of our Council and that the Council preferred to take no action whatever."

Moreover when Victor Olander, Secretary of the Illinois Federation of Labor, succeeded in 1927, in preventing the American Federation of Labor from conducting an independent investigation of the Ely Institute he found, he says, on his return to Chicago, a letter written by one of the officers of the American Association of University Professors "congratulating him upon the action taken."

And now—bless our soul!—the American Association of University Professors is called upon by the American Political Science Association to oust the very kind of men they have heretofore been doing all they could to protect!

What to do? What to do?

## THE GOOD EDITOR OF "TAX FACTS" GETS A SHOCK

In reviewing "Urban Land Economics" by Herbert B. Doran and Albert G. Hinman (MacMillan, 1928)—one of the fifty books being put out by the Ely Institute—Mr. Stoughton Cooley, Editor of "Tax Facts" says in the December issue of his little paper:

"Comes now the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities with an inquiry into the right use of urban lands. It is a pretentious effort, designed to meet a real need; but it is to be feared the authors have been guilty of darkening counsel, instead of contributing to the solution of the problem. . . . At page 378, after admitting the justice of special assessments to pay for pavements, sewers, etc., because of the benefits received by the property owner from these community services, the authors add:

"Such taxes should be levied equally upon improvements and upon land, as it is the reality, the land plus the improvement, which is benefited; the benefit accrues to the improvement as much as to the land, and the improvement should bear its share of the burden."

Is it possible that two men can be found associated with a university who deliberately claim that a community service—street pavement or what not—accrues to the improvement as much as to the land?!"

Why, certainly; what does Mr. Cooley think the Ely Institute is being subsidized for anyway?

## PROFESSOR ELY'S BOOK TO BE DROPPED IN ALASKA

November 3, 1928.

My dear Mr. Jorgensen:

You will no doubt think me a most ungrateful person in not acknowledging the receipt of your autographed copy of "The Struggle for Honest Education." The fact is that my duties as Re-commissioning Engineer for the Alaska Road Commission keep me, during the summer, out of touch with the mails and consequently I did not see your book until quite recently. . . . However, deeds rather than words may be a true test of gratitude and so I can inform you that your books and work are being fruit locally. The local College where two of my children are taking courses uses Ely for a textbook. Last spring I had some of your data which I loaned to the Professor of Economics. At the time he warned his pupils against the books of the Land Research Bureau stating that they were merely propaganda. A week ago I gave a talk to the College on the Single Tax. I was congratulated on my speech by the Professor who said that my argument was "absolutely sound." He also informed me that Ely was to be abandoned at the end of the present semester. There is no doubt at all that your work contributed wholly to this result. . . . Assuring you again of my deep appreciation of your kindness and consideration, I am, etc.,

DONALD MACDONALD, 2nd,  
Fairbanks, Alaska.

## WAR TO BE WAGED ON ELY'S BOOKS IN DENMARK

BJORNER

København Str. 30/II, 1928.

Strandere No. 6.

Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

Mr. Brunde has probably told you that we have now Elyism to fight in our own and the other Scandinavian Universities. I have used your book and papers to great advantage, and of course also the resolution given out by the conference in Chicago. To some degree we have succeeded in attacking the authority of Professor Ely. One of the students said at a meeting the other day that as a scientific textbook Professor Ely's was pretty good propaganda for his own political interests. But as you know the fight must be kept up. We are now planning a public protest meeting in the beginning of 1929. If you have any new facts or ideas that you can imagine might be helpful, will you please let us have them? We have sent you copies, I believe, of "Det Frie Blad" with the articles hitherto written on the subject. Some of them have been reprinted in the daily papers of the country. I do hope we may be successful in keeping down this vicious influence in our country. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

SIGNE BJORNER.