

# *We Don't Need Compulsory Unionism*

ONE GOAL of labor union bosses is to combine forces so powerful that they can literally shut down the country in order to get their way.

Oklahomans on a tour of Asia and the South Pacific saw that almost happen when they stopped in New Zealand. Airport engineers and ground crews stranded thousands of tourists and interrupted business with a strike over laws that they didn't like.

Russell Pierson, Oklahoma City TV-radio personality, was a leader of one tour group. He pointed out that livestock exports are a principal industry to New Zealand and when unionists in meat packing plants staged a sympathy strike, shipping and related industries were crippled and local food supplies were threatened.

The outcome was an "armed truce" with airport workers returning to work while negotiations resumed with union bosses "holding a gun" on government, the public and travelers.

New Zealand newspapers published many letters pointing out

that union members violated the law when they struck and violence erupted.

"Many of us would be repulsed if the government tried to pass a law forcing us to subscribe to the National Party, but we let this travesty of compulsory unionism be imposed on us," one letter said.

A member of the Meat Workers' Union who said he had always supported the union asked: "Do they in fact represent the workers, or are they now exploiting them in their own struggle for power?"

Another wrote: "Because of unions we have ended up with a mob of moaning socialists who spend more time demanding their rights than actually working."

American labor bosses' objective of greater political and economic power is obvious and sometimes is plainly stated. An example is an article by Dr. Clarence B. Carson in *The Freeman* (Dec. 1980). He wrote:

"Unionization of government employees is the ultimate in unionization . . . On the surface, government employees who organize into

unions are organized against management within government. Or, to state it more bluntly, it could be held that such unions are organized against governments."

Example after example might be cited in which policemen, firemen, garbage workers or other municipal employees have engaged in illegal strikes against government. Equivocating officials have not enforced the law by permanently firing strikers. They have allowed them to regain their jobs with greater union power.

Jerry Wurf, head of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, has made it clear that he hopes to gain enough clout to call a strike and shut down all local government.

The United Auto Workers right now is considering affiliation with the AFL-CIO in order to pack more power into that union coalition.

All of this should be evidence that Oklahomans need to arouse themselves and enact legislation that would guarantee each individual the "right to work" without being compelled to join a labor union.

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**Union's power  
cripples town**

TO THE EDITOR:

In reference to Ferdie Deering's column in The Daily Oklahoman March 19, as one of the Oklahomans recently stranded in New Zealand, I feel compelled to write.

Our three busloads of passengers were turned back about 50 miles

## Letters

from Auckland on Feb. 24. We were scheduled to depart the Auckland airport at 9 p.m. that same evening for the return home after a two-week tour of Australia and New Zealand. We were told there was violence at the airport and no planes would be leaving that day. The strike lasted for one week, during which time we were shifted from one airport motel to another, from the town of Hamilton to the city of Auckland, as the whole country was full of stranded tourists.

The Auckland newspaper made it clear the union bosses were engaging in a power struggle with the government. Union leaders forced police to arrest them when they picketed in a restricted zone at the airport.

Meat packers, bakeries, banks, milk co-ops all joined in a sympathy strike. We saw a city shut down for one week — a city that depends on exports and tourism for its existence!

Recently a bill was in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the state to have the right-to-work law. It did not pass. Surely our representatives will give this more serious thought. I am aware of those representatives who voted for and against the bill as well as those who were excused. I hope all other Oklahomans who were stranded in New Zealand with me are also aware of how their representatives voted.

From our recent experience, we can see the need for a right-to-work law in Oklahoma. To see a country completely shut down by the power of a few men is a very frightening thing.

New Zealand is a beautiful island country. Most of the people were against this strike, but the unions had become so powerful there was not much they could do except stage a protest march, which they did.

The situation there can, and possibly will, happen again. We felt the union leaders were saying they can get along without our tourist dollars. I would advise anyone wanting to visit New Zealand to be alert to the power of the union.

Mrs. Donald Howard, Waurika