

Fear bill cuts workers' options

Right-to-work groups fight easing unionization

As the U.S. Senate gears up to tackle the Labor Reform Bill, its opponents are continuing their fight against the proposal which they believe will terminate the workers' option to stay out of union membership.

Under Senate Bill 1083, employers found to be bargaining in bad faith would be subjected to fines and penalties. Paying double the amount of back wages and being excluded for three years from government contract work are two of the ways employers would be fined.

With the threat of costly fines hanging over the bargaining tables, members of the Michigan Right to Work Association fear that employers will be inclined to give in to union demands and agree to an all union shop.

That attitude would restrict the choice of workers who are opposed to joining a union, according to Patricia Shelton, treasurer of the Michigan Right to Work Association. The group is affiliated with the nationwide Right to Work Association.

"WE'RE opposed to compulsory unionism," said Mrs. Shelton, an executive secretary for Douglas and Lemmon, Co., of Farmington Hills. She is a Livonia resident.

"We're not opposed to unions. But we believe the bill will limit the freedom of choice for employees," she said.

If a closed shop with required union membership becomes the norm, employees will be forced to join a union against their beliefs, according

to Theresa O'Connor, staff director for Michigan Right to Work Association. Employees who disagree with the union's political stance would be placed in the position of supporting a lobbying effort opposed to their beliefs, according to Ms. O'Connor. Although Labor is officially non-partisan during election campaigns, unions have been violating that stance by supporting candidates, according to Ms. O'Connor.

"In 1976, it was obvious they were instrumental in getting Jimmy Carter elected," she said.

Dues paid by employees could be used to support a candidate or a cause opposed by some workers, according to Ms. O'Connor.

In addition to hitting the campaign trail, unions are faced with boosting their own falling numbers, according to Ms. O'Connor.

"THEY want to increase their membership. Its dropped in the last couple of years," said Mrs. Shelton.

"If they increase their membership, they will increase the amount of money they take in," she said.

As their blue collar numbers decrease, unions are looking toward white collar workers as sources of new membership, according to Ms. O'Connor.

"They have a potentially huge number of people sitting out there," she said of the office workers.

If the unions are using the reform

bill to alleviate some of their membership problems, the Right to Work Association views the proposal as a potential troublemaker for the small businessman.

"Innumerable small businessmen would be the first ones to tumble over on this," Ms. O'Connor said.

With the threat of economic fines imposed on them for bargaining in

poor faith, the small businessman, like his colleagues in large corporations, would be forced to comply with union demands.

"It's no matter what the union is demanding. Any action against organized labor will place him in economic peril. It will cost him more money to fight than to give in to particular demands because of the potent pen-

alties," Ms. O'Connor said.

ALTHOUGH the group opposes the bill, its officials believe that the union has its place and that some employers will bargain in poor faith.

"There are scrupulous employers and there are unscrupulous employers," Ms. O'Connor said. "Unions definitely have their good side. I think labor organizations have

their purpose. And the purpose they served 40 years ago is in this day and age, not the same thing they do today," she said.

"As a general rule, they seem to get involved beyond collective bargaining and into a broader spectrum. Backing abortion has little to do with the pay scale. It doesn't have anything to do with collective bargaining," she said.

Festival searches for its 1978 slogan

Farmington area residents and students have until March 1, to submit slogans and themes for the 14th annual Farmington Founders Festival, scheduled for July 25-30.

The contest is sponsored by the 1978 Festival Committee. Guidelines for the contests include a 10 word limit on the slogan. There is no limit on entries one person may submit.

Prizes include a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond, widespread use of the Festival logo or theme and publicity for the winner. The winner will have a place of honor in the Festival Parade, July 29.

All entries become the property of the Farmington Founders Festival Committee and must be postmarked

by March 1. Entries should be mailed to Founders Festival, care of Farmington Chamber of Commerce, 23715 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48024.

Hand delivered entries should be in the Chamber office by 4 p.m., March 1.

The executive committee will judge the entries and their decision is final. Members of the Festival Committee and their families are ineligible.

The committee is not liable for any damages arising from any of the themes and logos submitted. It reserves the right to cancel the contest if inappropriate or insufficient entries are forthcoming.

For further information, contact the committee at the Chamber office, 474-3440.

WILLIAM M. WRIGHT, Attorney, 2930 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND, 131.367

NOTICE OF HEARING Take Notice that on the 23rd day of March, A.D. 1978 at 2:30 P.M. in the Probate Courtroom, Oakland County Courthouse, Pontiac, Michigan, before the Honorable JOHN J. O'BRIEN, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the petition of Dorothy P. Ray for the appointment of DOROTHY P. RAY of 37801 Wendy Lee, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48031, or some other suitable person as administrator. Notice is further given that a determination of the legal heirs of said deceased will be made on said date at 2:30 P.M.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate must be presented to the fiduciary and copies of the claims must be filed with the Court on or before May 16, 1978. Notice is further given that the estate will be settled by the executor of the estate on or before May 16, 1978.

Dated: February 9, 1978 Attorney for Petitioner: William M. Wright, P.C., 2930 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48031. Petitioner: Dorothy P. Ray, 37801 Wendy Lee, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48031. Newspaper: Farmington Observer & Excitee. Publication: February 23, 1978

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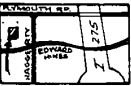
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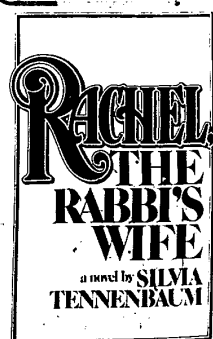
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