

Monday's Commentary

Business, labor unholy alliance hampers economy

The philosophical quagmire in which Americans find themselves over the cleavage between business and labor puzzles the thinking man.

Visitors from another galaxy unfamiliar with our ways could only laugh or shake their heads in pity at the absurdities observed.

On one hand they would see American business clamoring to cling onto its control of the marketplace and the accompanying profits while flaying to defend itself from the economic demands of labor and regulatory commands of government.

Looking the other way, he would see American labor disregarding the realities of destructive inflation while fighting to acquire for its workers a living wage and, at the same time, shirking business responsibilities.

In the middle, our visitors would observe the American consumer listlessly pondering his fate while adamantly hanging on to the useless hope that he will be the lucky one to fulfill the American dream.

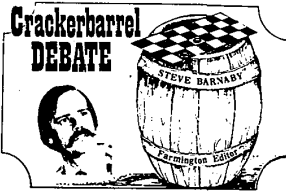
A quick look through the newspapers shows us a battle in which all are being harmed and will continue to be so until business and labor come to terms.

The United Auto Workers (UAW), to sidestep President Carter's wage and price guidelines, eye Canadian industry as bargaining targets.

Oil companies disparage the idea of a windfall profit tax, saying they need and deserve all the profits they can get. Blue Cross and Blue Shield tells its workers to bite the bullet and give its chief executive a \$9,000 raise.

The list could go on and on and the answer is the same in every case. The success of business and labor rests in a common cooperation and shouldering of responsibility.

Yet, what we have today is an unholy alliance between business and labor leaders which says "labor will deny its workers the opportunity for con-



control and responsibility, while business doles out benefits and clings to the profits."

The results — an adversary relationship is maintained in which business stagnates because of a conservative wish to preserve the status quo. Workers have been conditioned to scorn responsibility.

The American production record sinks every year. New and beneficial ideas from the collective mind go unnoticed and unutilized.

American business becomes less and less competitive in the world market as wages and prices skyrocket.

The answer is simple. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis back in 1915 put it this way:

"There must be a division not only of profits, but a division also of responsibilities. . . We must insist upon labor sharing the responsibilities for the result of the business."

Thus far Brandeis has been ignored, his wisdom shoved to the corner for the sake and perpetuation of the power politics in labor and business. Crippling strikes will continue, production will continue to fall and prices will be inflationary as long as this situation is tolerated.

But think about it, this country's fate is at stake.



By C.J. RISAK

Detroit is a town hungry for a winning professional sports team.

Anyone who has lived in the Motor City for more than a couple of years knows this. Each year, it's the same thing — promises and more promises amid cries for more time. "I promise you, we'll have a winner here within five years."

How many times have you heard that?

Not since the '50s has Detroit boasted a pro team that could win on a consistent basis and actually challenge for a title for more than a year or two.

The Tigers had their flash. They won the World Series in 1955, but in the following seasons they finished back in the pack. Only in '67, when the pennant race went down to the wire and Detroit was in there battling for it, in '68, and in '72, when they won their division, only those three years in the last 35 have the Tigers been any kind of a threat.

The Lions — one playoff appearance in the last 20 years speaks for itself.

The Pistons had a brief flurry in the mid-'70s, but never progressed past the second round of the playoffs. Now, Coach Dick Vitale has them in another rebuilding program (no matter what else he may say).

And then there's the Red Wings, the team that looked so promising just one year ago but flopped so badly this season. The team that looked so much like the one bright spot for Detroiters now seems years away, just as far as the Pistons.

IT ALL BECOMES repetitious and eventually disheartening. In other parts of the country, people say the Detroit sportswriters are the most negative to be found. But you can blame us?

I guess that's what my feelings were when I attended a combination dinner and talk by Detroit's newest sports franchise, the Express, last Tuesday at the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club in Farmington.

I expected to hear more promises about the upcoming season, with front office personnel spouting optimistic claims about their team, serving up PR with every drink.

I was surprised by the Express three-some that was in attendance, however. I got some PR thrown my way, but I also got some very straight answers that I never expected.

"We are committed to having a winning team now," was just about all Roger Faulkner, executive director of the Express, would say about his team.

"Many people in Detroit have the feeling that the other sports franchises aren't 100 percent committed to winning. We are."

Faulkner went on to say that while the Express' number-one goal is to bring a winner to Detroit, it was also important that the players fit into their plans and that they get along well with the team's coach, Ken Furphy, who was also in attendance.

That's fine and dandy, some of the team's goals, but no solemn oaths

about this year's team from the front office. But how will the team fare, playing half the season without last year's star, Trevor Francis? What could we expect from this year's Express?

THE OTHER TWO speakers gave some answers, but not the one's I expected to hear. Furphy spoke about the problems of employing "looseys," players who stay with the team for only a year.

"Soccer is a team sport, and it takes two years for the players to really get used to playing together," he said. It was one of the problems he faced as a coach.

Graham Oates, the team captain, gave some straight answers when I asked him about this year's team without Francis, compared to last year's team without Francis.

"I think we were a bit stronger last year," he said. He spoke of the acquisition of goalkeeper Jim Brown, from Scotland, as an improvement, but when questioned about the team's other major catch, midfielder Johann Schramm, Oates replied, "He's a little lazy getting back on defense."

Now, if the Express were in the mid-

dle of a very dreary season, I would have expected to hear these excuses. But I didn't expect it from a team that had just won its division the previous year, a team that hadn't even played its home opener yet, and a team that had a lot to look forward to, despite losing its first two contests of the season. And especially not in front of a crowd of potential season ticket buyers.

But the Express do many things differently than other franchise in the city. Instead of spending the evening selling the team, they sold soccer in general.

"For what it costs to outfit one football player, you can outfit an entire soccer team," was one of the selling points. There were others. And the Express back up all these promises with community involvement, all aimed at selling soccer to Detroit.

OATES, FOR EXAMPLE, spent last fall coaching the Bloomfield Hills Andover soccer team to a state title. The Express also sponsor leagues for youths, and co-sponsor the Bonanza Express soccer league.

But they aren't stopping there. The Express see the crowds and realize that they consist mostly of suburban-

ites. They see the Detroit area, with its problems with millages, and, knowing how little it costs to outfit a soccer team, they see a great possibility in the Detroit-area high schools for soccer.

So now the Express have formed a winter indoor soccer league, and want to play it at Cobo Hall or the new Joe Louis stadium, hoping to attract the people living in Detroit to the new sport.

Their plan is obvious: sell the sport, and the rest will follow, all the way down I-75 to the Pontiac Silverdome. And they're doing it the right way, selling the sport to the community, but not making outlandish promises about their team's future. They plan on letting the team's record speak for itself.

As Oates put it, "When a team in England moves up a division, they always play well for that first season. It's the second, third and fourth that are the real test."

"It's the same with us this year. No one knew what to expect from us last year. This year, we'll have to prove how good we are. It should be a real challenge."

A challenge, indeed. But if the Express are successful, Detroiters may have two things they've always wanted: an end of the promises, and a winner.



Fans strike out at opener

April 7 was a cold opening day in Tiger Stadium, so cold that the fans looked more like a football game crowd huddled under wool blankets and bundled in heavy coats.

They consumed massive quantities of coffee and hot chocolate instead of Coke and Stroh's ice cream.

Fan rowdiness was unleashed with fervor — the cold was not enough to stifle this group. Perhaps it was the two cancelled opening days earlier in the week. Everyone seemed anxious to get the show on the road.

It was a bad debut for the Tigers. Right off the bat, Texas scored two runs. They scored six more before the game was over.

The Tigers scored only two runs. It was understandable that some fans — who had been psychologically geared up for the game both Thursday and Friday afternoons and who braved the weather — were upset by the devastating defeat.

As the game got further out of the Tigers' reach, attention was diverted throughout the stadium by fans who decided they were more entertaining than the game.

From my lower deck seat between third base and home plate, there was minimal rowdiness. A couple of guys struck up with "We need Rusty" at especially sore points in the game. This offended two other fans a few rows behind them who told them to "Shut up and sit down" each time they revived their chant.

But that was calm fan reaction. At least these folks were watching the game. My friends in other parts of the stadium witnessed a different scene.

TWO FRIENDS seated in leftfield said that after the eighth inning, some fans took an "anything goes" attitude. One woman, who appeared to be in her mid-20s and more than a little drunk, stood up and began to strip while fans cheered her on with loud comments.

What I found offensive was something a teenage youth caught up in the frenzy of the moment stood up and "mooned" the crowd. Some people just sort of shrunk back in their seats.

Another friend seated in the bleachers — the notorious party section of the stadium — reported that besides seeing a couple of fights, she saw a chubby fellow repeatedly harassed by nearby fans chanting "You are fat, you are fat."

Ridiculous behavior. Detroit has a good share of repressed actors and actresses who crave crowd attention, regardless of how perverted it might be. What I found offensive was something I watched from my seat in a relatively quiet part of the stadium. Tiger star Ron LeFlore, while in the outfield, was pelted by bottles and cans thrown from the stands. I could see the cans glistening in the sunlight.

LeFlore was having a particularly lousy day. The fans let him know it each time he came to bat with a loud chorus of boos.

That is insult enough. But to add a potential injury situation is totally unforgivable. Luckily, LeFlore was not hurt.

Throwing things on the field violates a city ordinance. Fans caught and convicted are subject to a \$500 fine and/or 90 days in the Detroit House of Correction.

"THE ONLY way to catch someone is if someone nearby volunteers the information. Otherwise, it's very difficult," said Dan Ewald, a publicist for Tiger Stadium.

"And it depends on what part of the stadium you're in. People sitting in the bleachers on a hot summer night, drinking lots of beer, won't be too anxious to turn anyone in."

Tiger Stadium has a private security force in addition to Detroit Police officers on hand for the games.

The Tigers have been plagued with fan warped mentality in other cities, too. Ewald recalled a game in Milwaukee in 1975. Tiger outfielder Willie Horton was running back to the leftfield wall to catch a fly ball when some idiot dumped a can of beer over his head. Seeing that it was a home run, Horton let it go and probably averted a head injury from the flying beer can.

There seems to be some hope where these fan-criminals are concerned. Ewald said people are getting fed up with such rank behavior. There has been an increase in turn-ins in recent years, he said.

Editor:

On Tuesday, May 8, a special library election will be held in the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills to re-establish the Farmington Community Library as a district library to conform to amended Michigan state law.

There are two proposals on the ballot:

• Proposal A: Shall the Farmington Community Library be re-established as a district library authority for a district including the City of Farmington and the City of Farmington Hills under Section 2 of Act 465 of the Public Acts of 1977?

Explanation: The Farmington Community Library was organized under a state law that established a district library to serve more than one city. Due to an oversight in the original law passed 25 years ago, the exact legal status of a district library was never defined. To correct the oversight, the Legislature amended the district library law in 1978. This proposal re-defines the legal status of the Farmington Community Library as an authority so that the library may conform to the amended law.

• Proposal B: If the re-establishment of the Farmington Community Library as a district library authority is approved, shall the Board of Trustees of the Farmington Community Library be authorized to levy a tax to provide money for the operation of the library up to a maximum of one and one-half (1.5) mills on each dollar (\$1.50 per \$100.00) of the assessed valuation of property as finally equalized in the library district?

Explanation: Proposal B provides for the continued financial support of the libraries and sets a maximum millage rate of 1.5 mills. The library is currently supported at the rate of 1.1 mills. The effect of this proposal is that the cities would reduce the city budget for

from our readers

LWV supports library

libraries by 1.1 mill and the millage would be transferred to the library.

Polling places are the same as those in a general election and are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. We urge all eligible citizens to vote.

FATSY SMITH, Voter Service Chairman, West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters

Hockey veteran dreams a team

Editor:

I have received a few copies of Tom Riordan's recent fine article on hockey as related to him by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nudds. I remember meeting them many years ago.

I am now living in Venice, Fla. and a very close friend lives on the next street — Herb Lewis, my roommate for many years.

My defense partner for the good years in the middle 1930s lives about 10 miles away. That's Scot Bowman.

We have the nucleus of a fair starting team of former Red Wings living in Florida. They are: Norm Smith, goalie; Scot Bowman, defense; Doug Young, defense; Carl Voss, center; Herb Lewis, left wing; Ebbie Goodfellow, right wing.

The Nudds, in my opinion, left out a great player by the name of Syd Howe. He was one of the best all-around performers of all time.

Also, you might remind the Nudds that "Cooney" Weiland played on our good 1934 team that lost in the finals. It was nice to get Mr. Riordan's article and I'm sorry to see the old building is being vacated. It brings a lot of pleasant memories.

EBBIE GOODFELLOW, Venice, Fla.

Editor's note: The Riordan column told how Harry Nudds of Farmington has attended nearly every Red Wing game in 51 years of professional hockey at Detroit's Olympia Stadium. Nudds and his wife selected their all-time Red Wing team. It included Ebbie Goodfellow, who played from 1929-30 through 1942-43.

Observer column spawns results

Editor:

Thought you might like to know that due to the fine reporting by Craig Piechura on the textbook issue, dated Jan. 4, a letter was sent to Scott, Foresman and Company from Dr. John Porter asking them to confirm the statement that "future editions of their textbooks will not have brand name items."

The Farmington Observer was the only paper mentioned in Dr. Porter's letter.

Although there was extensive coverage on this issue, Piechura was the only reporter that received such a statement from Scotts, Foresman and Company.

Once we receive the reply from the above mentioned letter, we will know what our future steps will be concerning this issue.

We will keep you informed as the matter progresses.

JANICE ROLNICK, trustee Farmington Board of Education

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