

Staff Series

O'Neil, Mary

1948

Springfield Illinois June 13th. 1948.

Hon. Daniel J. Tobin General President  
International Brotherhood Of Teamsters  
222 E. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis 4. Indiana

Dear Dan:

I am not gloating, or wanting to injure you, or even to hurt your feelings, I think that you are not only an Honest man but, One of the most able men there is in the labor movement in the world. At the Same time Dan, as you said in your last letter, even you can make mistakes, and that one which brought in the low Standard Cheap labor from Sicily, to the Coalmines of the U. S. was a terrible mistake, which from the Enclosure has become a Commonplace act now, everywhere in our Country, at nearly all times, Being committed as a matter of course, in every Country, By every body.

I still think that if that act that was committed by the Coal operators, and their Stooges, under authorization of A president of the U. S. In violation of the Immigration Laws, With Immunity Being Guaranteed from Punishment, for any Criminal Act — committed in pursuance thereof, Including Murder, 26 at least being murdered in Illinois, 42 in one Small District in West Virginia, and many others in many other territories in the U. S. And thousands being beaten up all over the Coal districts in our Nation, that that would bring a stop to that sort of thing being done immediately, and for ever. I wish that it could be done, not only for the Coalminers sake, he is the one that will benefit most, but it will benefit all laboring men, and at least indirectly the whole labor movement, and every Dependent of Labor in our Country. Sincerely,

*John H. Walker*  
John H. Walker  
Room #4. The Annex  
Island Hotel  
Springfield Illinois

[p.m. 1948? Aug. 2]

#835. Milwaukee Street. Denver 6. Colorado.

Hon. Daniel J. Tobin. General President  
Teamsters International Union  
222 E Michigan Street  
Indianapolis 4. Ind.

Dear Dan:

As a result of my Wife dying the 17th of March, and my having to seek other places of residence, my Mail did not get to me, so I did not get the two last issues of your Official Magazine until recently. Your doubts of the truthfulness of Drew Pearsons Story, re the Rail Injunction, reminds me of another case of the same kind, a long time ago. Altho you may remember it.

It concerned A building Trades Agreement, made in one of the great Cities with which you are familiar, The Agreement was made during a Depression, when the Concessions of the Contractors were few and very insignificant, Some of the Delegates to the joint conference were afraid of the effects of making such an agreement, that it might react on them unfavorably, So they favored it all being referred to Arbitration, one of the Delegates knew that an intelligent Arbitrator, who was also honest, would not be able to give them anything, and that the agreement which they could get from the Contractors, would be better than anything which they could get from the Arbitrator, so for the good of the membership, he insisted on making the agreement with the Contractors, all of the others refused to agree with him, and insisted on referring it to the arbitrator, he finally, rather than hold up the making of the agreement, agreed to sign the contract but he warned them that he never broke an agreement which he was a party to in his life, and that if the agreement was made, and the sword of the arbitrator, went against them, that he would live up to it, and demand that they would also.

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That agreement was made, every delegate signed it, but when the sword was made, everyone of them, but this one delegate, ( Whom You know well) refused to live up to it, Mike insisted on the agreement being lived up too. The men came out on Strike, after about six weeks, those delegates who refused to honor their own signed Contract, got Old Sam to come out there to make a Speech, to Bolster up the Strike Sam called me on the Phone from Chicago, to please come up there to him, I agreed, I went up there, he told me of the situation, I told him the facts, that then we could more intelligently decide what to do, He sent an Organizer, at my suggestion over to the Sec'y of the Building Trades union, to get the original copy of the Agreement, which was signed by all of them, the organizer came back and said that there was no such agreement, I called the secretary's office and told him what the Organizer had reported to pres. Gomers He told me that that was a lie, that he had given him the agreement which was signed by all of the Delegates and officers, and requested that Sam Talk to him, then Sam admitted that Frenchy Andre and two others had taken the Agreement from him, and threatened his life if he did not report as he did.

Then Sam asked me what he was to do at the great Mass meeting which had been arranged for at the Pier, which he was to Address, I told him that if it was me that was to speak that I would tell the truth publicly, for the good of the Labor movement. The old man did not know what to do, and finally said so, and again requested me to tell him what to do otherwise, I told him to go on the Pier, look up into the Sky, and pick out the Bluest spot there was, then keep looking up there and make the best Patriotic Speech which he was Capable of, which he Did. + havr read through your both Magazine's Dan, you are getting out A very fine Magazine ~~but~~. but this is enough for one letter, every good wish Sincerely,

*John H. Walker*  
John H. Walker  
#335 Millwaukee Street  
Denver 5, Colorado

Dan isn't it hell for a man to be punished, in the labor Movement, that is the most out standing institution for Democracy there is in the World, without being given A hearing, For Dualism, when he committed no Dualism, he fought to preserve his Union, as an honest Democracy institution, which was as good as that compared with any Union in the world. And when those who brought the Charges against him was the most outstanding Dualists on the face of the Earth, during all of history. Dual to every other Tradesunion that is in the Nation. It takes pretty good courage and Patience and Tolerance, to Take it, or is it something else???

*and who has committed  
about every other crime  
against it, that  
ever was committed,*