

Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America

LOCAL No. 42

Affiliated with the
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

2701 E. ALLEGHENY AVE., PHILA. 34, PA.

March 3, 1944

Civil Rights Defense Committee,
Mr. Joseph Gorelik
4032 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gorelik:

If we are to preserve the democratic rights and liberties which has been the American custom gained through the Bill of Rights and for which millions of Americans are fighting in every corner of the world, we must necessarily be continuously on guard against any infractions of the cherished right of freedom of speech.

Therefore, I Consider it my duty as a responsible union leader and an American citizen to strongly protest the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the eighteen members of the Minneapolis truck drivers union and the Court's refusal to consider their appeal. To allow convictions such as these to stand establishes a dangerous precedent and disfranchises American workers of their constitutional rights of freedom of speech.

I personally do not subscribe to the philosophy or political beliefs of the eighteen persons convicted under the Smith Gag Act, but I do insist that no American should be penalized for expressing his thoughts or beliefs. Furthermore, I cannot conceive any decent American who would not rebel at the conviction of anyone under a law which would have made criminals of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert B. Moyer,
Executive Secretary

Telegram of Endorsement - Feb. 14, 1944

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION YOU SUPPLIED CONCERNING THE MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE. THE FACT THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY REFUSED TO REVIEW A TEST CASE UNDER A LAW INVOLVING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT. I AGREE THAT THE IDEAS AND OPINIONS OF THE EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE MINNEAPOLIS TEAMSTERS UNION IS NOT THE ISSUE IN THIS CASE. THE WHOLE ISSUE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH. A FAMOUS MAN ONCE SAID: " I MAY NOT AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY BUT I WILL DEFEND WITH MY LIFE YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT." THEREFORE I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE YOUR CAMPAIGN AS A PROGRESSIVE TRADE UNION LEADER AGAINST THE INFRINGEMENT OF OUR BASIC RIGHTS.
FRATERNALLY YOURS.

WILLIAM F. SCHAFFER, PRESIDENT
LOCAL 42, IUMSWA-CIO