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WASHINGTON

Solicitation, Mr. Shayn,
Distinguished Leader of Labor.
Fellow Citizens,

a. Comment on great need to
be happy to take part in
this joint celebration of Labor
Day by A.F. of L. C.

In unity there is strength.
Working people need every
ounce of strength to meet today's
problems. Failure in the world
and in our government
would destroy free labor.

As you know I speak plainly,
sometimes harshly. Perma
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going to do some plain speaking today.

These are critical times for labor - for all who work. There is great danger ahead. Right now the whole future of labor is wrapped up in one simple proposition. If, in the next election, you get a Congress and an Administration friendly to labor, you have much to hope for. If you get an Administration and a Congress unfriendly to labor, you have much...
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to fear.

d. I believe that a strong and free labor movement constitutes a tremendous force for preserving our form of government.

A free and strong labor movement is our best bulwark against Communism.

Therefore you must have a friendly administration and a friendly Congress.

There is only one real test of friendship. It is a test of the heart. You
know without being told
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Who your friend is and who is not your friend, please take over the years. Think of the Presidents of our time and their attitude toward labor. Then look into your hearts and ask yourselves: Was President Harding a friend of labor? Was President Coolidge a friend of labor? Was President Hoover a friend of labor?

Between 1900 and 1923 labor was dealt three major blows. In each case there was
coincided with depression which occurred under Re-

publican administration and Republican Congresses.

On the depression years of 1907 and 1908 sweeping in-
junctious were used to

weaken labor and send its trusted leaders to jail.

After Taft labor recouped ground it had lost. The

Democratic Administration of Woodrow Wilson strengthened

labor unions—real wages increased sharply, other pre-
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remorse levels.

But another blow to the
heart of labor came in 1931
when the tin-pot depression
put nearly six million work-
ers out of em-
ployment. The strength of
labor organizations dropped
off. A vicious campaign went
on. Union propaganda swept the
country. It was the era of
the open shop and the yellow
dog contract.

Then labor began
to recoup facing theanian
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Coolidge boom. Wages rose slightly, but far less than the productivity of the nation and the incidence profits of industry.

A few years passed, and you all remember came the Horse panic and the great depression which dealt the working of the country a terrible blow.

There was no unemployment compensation in those days.

There was no relief under
Mazes in those days.
Average hourly earnings were only 45 cents.
From twelve to fifteen million workers were unemployed.
Then in 1933 came the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. For the first time labor received the recognition and encouragement that it merits.
By constructive legislation President Roosevelt and a sympathetic Congress co-
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Many of the abuses against which labor had been con-
tending. That Democratic Admini-
stration, of which I was
a part from Jan 1, 1935,
passed the
Wagner Act to assure
fair collective bargaining.
Abolished the Sweatshop
Provided unemployment
compensation.
Passed the Social Security
Act.
Saved millions of workers.
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Laborers' gains from precorse brought the average hourly wage from 45 to 48 1/2.83

even more.

We turned the greatest depression in history
into the most prosperous era the country has ever

Sixty million people are employed today.

The gains of labor were not accomplished at the
expense of the rest of the

nation. Labor's gains...
contributed to the nation's general prosperity.

Incomes of farmers and business men are higher than ever before in the history of the world. But we still have a

ight to keep that prosperity. Two years ago the people of this country, and many working

men among them, seemed to feel that they wanted a change. They elected the Republican

80th Congress—and they got their change. That Congress
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promptly fell into the familiar Republican pattern of aid to big business and attack on labor. That Republican Congress promptly noted the special privilege interests a cut in taxes and noted you a cut in freedom. Both were, you see, nuts.

The Republicans promptly noted themselves a cut in taxes and you a cut in freedom. That 80th Republican Congress failed to crack down on
prices but if cracked down on later. The Republicans failed to give the consumers of America protection against the rising cost of living. But at the same time, they put a dangerous weapon into the hands of the big corporations in the shape of the Taft-Hartley Law, which I vetoed, but which was passed over my veto. The union men with whom I have talked tell me that labor is just beginning to feel the effects of the Taft...
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Hartley Law. But you and I know that the Taft-Hartley Law is only a foretaste of what you will get if the Republican reaction is allowed to continue to grow.