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WASHINGTON

Salarisation, Mr. Mayor
Distinguished leader of labor
Fellow Citizens,

a Comment on great need
b Happy to take part in
c this joint celebration
d Labor Day by A.F. of L. O.
e In unity there is strength
Working people need energy
cause of strength the poss
ices to meet today's pro-
blems. Force in the world
e and in our government
would destroy free labor
0. As you know, speak plain,
sometimes thick. Pena
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go to do come 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.

1. 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 in
the test of the heart. You
know without being told...
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who your friend is and who
is not your friend. Place
back 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 Cool-
idge a friend of labor? Was
President Hoover a friend of
labor?

Between 1902 and 1933 labor
was dealt three major blows
in each case there fowl
coincided with depressions which occurred under Repub-
lician administration and Republican Congresses.
On the depression years of 1907 and 1908 sweeping in-
junctions 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 strength-
ened labor unions—real wages increased sharply, store pri-
...
nious levels.

But another blow to the
heart of labor came in 1931
when the lasting depression
put nearly 16 million work-
ers out of em-
ployment. The strength of
labor organizations dropped
off. A minor campaign plant
union propagated across the
country. It was the era of
the open shop and the yellow
dog contract.

Then labor began
to recover during the phy-
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Coolidge room. Wages rose slightly, but far less than the productivity of the nation and the immense profits of industry.

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

There was no unemployment compensation in those days. There was no social order
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Magers 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-
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 secure
fair collective bargaining.
Abolished the sweat shop
Provided unemployment
compensation.
Passed the Social Security
Act.
Saved millions of workers.
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Loaves from foreclosed
brought the average hourly
wage from 45 c 42 83
as seen.

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

Sixty-one 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. Income of farmers and business men are higher than ever before in the history of the world. But we must have a right 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 for 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 are very nice.

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 corporation in the shape of the Taft-Hartley Law, which I vetoed, but which was passed over my veto. The union men with whom these talks tell me that later is just beginning to feel the effects of the Taft
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Huntley’s Law. But you and I know that the Taft-Huntley Law is only a foretaste of what you will get if the Republican reaction is allowed to continue to grow.