

IR newsletter

Volume 13 - No. 3

December 22, 1970

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 1971

Time: 6:00 PM - No Host Cocktail
7:00 PM - Dinner - \$4.25
8:00 PM - Speaker

Place: The Boardroom Restaurant
3361 West 8th Street
Los Angeles, California

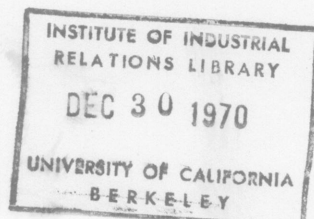
Speaker: Mr. James Peck
Director of Public Relations
International Brotherhood of
Teamsters Joint Council # 42

Please make reservations by returning the enclosed card or by calling Sonia Pieper at 825-3180 as soon as possible.

NEWS BRIEF
ON SPEAKER
FOR JANUARY

Mr. Peck handles all Public Relations matters for the Teamsters in Southern California. He is considered one of the most knowledgeable staff members of the organization in every aspect of its service and its recent history and developments. He is an outstanding speaker and should make a most interesting presentation.

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 8th MEETING: Our speakers at this meeting were attorney Howard Fabrick, labor relations representative of Columbia Pictures, and advisory counsel to the Association of Motion Picture and Television producers; and Josef Bernay, International Representative, International Association of Theatrical and Stagehand Employees, AFL-CIO. Both speakers ably presented their respective positions regarding labor relations in the movie industry.



SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 8th MEETING (continued)

Mr. Fabrick cited the complexity of labor relations in the industry - there are 40 unions and over 60 different employers - the preference shown by movie people and industry to move to Europe, and other parts of the world, for film making where labor costs are much lower. Also, a rigid structure of operations is contributing to the problem of both people and industry going elsewhere to make pictures. Fabrick stressed that Hollywood's image, as projected in the past, has not been a good one and a factor in this poor image has been the baronial system of many years standing that has spawned refugees who have gone elsewhere to work.

Mr. Bernay agreed and cited as example, six special effects men who are now working in Europe, for local companies as well as for American companies that now go to Europe to make pictures. Bernay also emphasized the important factor of skill - that the men and women of the I.A.T.S.E. locals are not just technicians, they are really artists in their particular fields. This, says Bernay, has to be kept in mind when dealing with all aspects of the Hollywood labor picture.

Fabrick raised the question of multiple jurisdictional problems that have arisen in the industry and mentioned the possible need to change the system if the product is to continue to be made here. Bernay answered this by citing the debate going on among I.A.T.S.E. members as to flexibility in doing the work. The members have to decide which direction they wish to go. All this is being complicated by the scarcity of jobs. The motion picture industry now has about 35% unemployment among I.A.T.S.E. local members. This figure could get much higher by next spring if things go badly on new production starts and TV series. Bernay cited the efforts of the I.A.T.S.E. in setting up the million dollar film package, which permits small film producers to secure assistance in the way of smaller and more flexible staffs in film making.

Both speakers stressed the severe competition for the leisure time dollar that the movie industry faces due to organized athletics, football, basketball, campers, outdoor sports for all seasons, ski-mobile, and many others. Hope was voiced that video cassettes and cable TV could make a difference in the future employment picture by creating a larger market for Hollywood products.

During the discussion period, the question was raised if having nationwide contracts (and not contracts just limited to Hollywood) would bring a possible solution to some of the industry problems.

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 8th MEETING (continued)

In the discussion that followed, the growth of picture-making in New York City was cited as an example of the problem. In the last eight months, 44 motion pictures have been made in that city. One reason for the growth there was attributed to the public relations efforts of New York's Mayor Lindsay.

Both speakers agreed on the need for the U.S. government to make some move in the direction of a subsidy or other such assistance, as European governments are now providing to their motion picture industry.

In response to the query on products produced - the quality and nature of the films - it was indicated that most of the movie-house tickets being sold today are to those between the ages of 15 to 25 years, and the product is, as a consequence, being aimed more generally to that group of movie-goers.

In conclusion, both speakers saw the necessity to reexamine current procedures in the industry and the great need to make every effort to revitalize it - if it is to remain an important element in the industrial life of this area.

JOB OPPORTUNITY - The Center for Labor and Management at the University of Iowa has a vacancy in labor education. They are looking for someone with experience directly or indirectly in labor education, a Ph.D. or a person close to a Ph.D., preferably with interest in a particular phase of industrial relations or labor history, who could teach an academic course in their college. If anyone is interested, please contact:

Mr. Edgar R. Czarnecki
Assistant Professor and Program Director
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

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