

SB255

PA618

1971

Transportations

245-247

House

5566

Senate

2880

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR
AND
INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

1-347

**1971
Index**

MARCH 26, 1971

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

John N. Bohannon:

amounted to \$2,310,000. There is of course, no way of knowing how much longer this strike would have lasted if employees had been eligible for such Unemployment Compensation payments.

Gentlemen, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you and express our opposition. Thank you.

Paul Beliveau:

Mr. Chairmen, members of the committee, my name is Paul Beliveau I am a resident of Milford and the Plant Manager of the Bridgeport Brass Company's plant located in Bridgeport Brass Company's plant located in Bridgeport.

I am opposed to the enactment of House Bill 6018(AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS.) because it is contrary to the public interest and contrary to the basic principles for which unemployment compensation is provided.

It is against the interest of the public because:

1. It will serve to prolong work stoppages and create a substantial loss of business in the community.
2. It will discourage badly needed new industry from coming to Connecticut.
3. It will make it more difficult for existing business to continue to operate within the State.

It is contrary to the basic principles for paying unemployment compensation because:

1. It permits workers who voluntarily withhold their services to draw unemployment benefits while jobs are ready and waiting to be done.
2. It will act as a Union Strike Fund Supplement and in effect require Connecticut employers to finance their own strike.

Clifford N. Hutchison:

Mr. Chairmen, Clifford N. Hutchison, Works Manager, Sprague Meter Co., Bridgeport, Conn. My associations with Labor Unions and negotiated agreements cover a span of 28 years. Had the provisions of this proposed Act been in force during that period of time, there would have been a single instance where they would have been applicable as the result of a labor dispute in any of my companies and I am optimistic enough to expect that they never will be.

Yet in principle, I strongly oppose the provisions of proposed section (d) which says to me: Employees, may by an unreasonable action, close down a plant, after which they could seek temporary employment elsewhere for 7 weeks and then start collecting unemployment benefits to be paid for out of my tax monies."

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Clifford N. Hutchison:

The historic relationship between employee and employer has changed. For the most part we have reached a stage of maturity which recognizes the mutual interests of both parties. If there is a difference in beneficial relationships it is usually in favor of the employee.

Then, the employer is now the one who must have a good reputation in order to attract and retain employees. The employer is tightly bound by a multitude of rules, regulations and agreements covering every aspect of his relationships with his employees. In addition to wages and good working conditions, an employer must provide various forms of off-the job, security and make liberal payments for various hours not worked such as vacations, holidays, funeral leaves, sick leave, jury duty, Union business, military reserve duty, Union business, military reserve duty, lunch periods, etc.

Even so, at the unskilled and semi-skilled work levels it is increasingly more attractive to collect unemployment and welfare benefits than it is to work for a living and now we have a proposal to include strike benefits.

The trend is somewhat akin to the deteriorating ecology situation in which we find ourselves. There is no specific time, place or action on which we can place the blame but there is evidence of a trend which must be stopped and reversed if we are to maintain and improve our way of life.

Somewhere along the line more emphasis should be put on encouraging gainful employment and the creation of taxable income with less emphasis on providing non-taxable income such as strike benefits. Thank you.

Leon LeMaire:

Is Mr. Smith here?

Cornelius Smith:

My name is Cornelius Smith, I'm with the Smith Construction Co. As a non-union contractor, I represent most of the contractors in this State, as a member of the National Federation of Independent Business, I represent small Business Men who are dedicated toward our free-enterprise system in this democracy. As a member of the Associated Builders and Contractors, we are dedicated toward the merit-shop system of conducting a business whereby we're our own management and we award contracts in accordance with someone's merit, instead of deciding whether or not they belong to some organization. Also, all our personnel are paid in accordance with their own merits, not by some pre-determined rate. As I said I'm a non-union contractor. On last July 10, some of my men, some of my drivers decided that they would like to be represented by a union.

Well, instead of coming to work that day, they came with signs, on, saying they were on strike. They came with their signs on,

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

C. Smith:

for the next fourteen weeks, during this period we suffered a lot of loss. We could get no materials in, either to our plant, or to any of our jobs. We had to go out and buy equipment, haul our own materials in, we lost a lot of business, because we couldn't go on jobs, and we were at that time, delivering materials too.

It costs us thousand of dollars a week, even though we were not any member of any union, we had no bargain with any union. At the end of fourteen weeks, the National Labor of Labor Relations Committee, the National Relations Board decided they vote and it turned out that the majority of our personnel did not want a union to represent them.

I just feel that if this bill No. 6018(AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT.) comes through, that these fellows can decide anytime they like, that they can give me these special services or whatever you might call them free for the first seven weeks, and from them I'm going to have to pay for it. Thank You.

Mr. Chairmen, the very patient members of your committee, please gavel me down after ninety-seconds. I think no soul will be saved after that. You've heard a lot of very impassioned oratory from the far side of the room, some parts of which would be really funny if took the serious, about the unions being grounded to the dust, about their goals of minimal social justice, about the fact that we must protect the whole community and that manufacturers can write off forty-eight percent. Believe there are a lot of small manufacturers like the Star Pinkum which I'm President, that don't get into the forty-eight percent bracket. We have 130 employees, we have no union, we been in business 105 years, here in the state of Connecticut, we have four other people all in the State of Connecticut making common pins, it takes a lot of common pins to make a dollar, people, and when you spend thousand of dollars for unemployment compensation, all of which we approve of, and when you use your best efforts to invest your money so that you will have continuous employment, so that you will not be a drain upon the unemployment compensation system, and when you thereby earn a rate of 1.2% which is pretty good for a little company, and then you contemplate the possibility that by your taking money from a fund to which we contribute, in order to increase the cost of our doing business in the State of Connecticut, then we're prompted to leave our desk and come up here to you and say Gentlemen, we little people the little fellows that employ 100 people or less, we oppose H.B. 6018. And I might say that we oppose H.B. 5881(AN ACT CONCERNING REPEALING MERIT RATING.) because the difference between what we now put into Connecticut Compensation. Thank you very much, I think I've used my 90 seconds.

Chr. Badolato: Your overstepping your bounds, sir on H.B. 5881 sir.

Leon Lemaire:

By clapping, your using up part of the next individuals time,

H-120

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
1971**

**VOL. 14
PART 13
5555-6226**

Tuesday, June 8, 1971 12.

MBS

of the pin that many of you wear, try a little kindness.

RONALD SARASIN, 95th District:

I will certainly try. On page 2, Calendar No. 1566.

On page 3, Calendar No. 1578.

On page 4, Calendar No. 1589 and

The next item, Calendar No. 1590 and

The second item from the bottom, Calendar No. 1593, I would ask that those items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your objection is noted, these items will not appear on the Consent Calendar.

RONALD SARASIN, 95th District:

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the joint committee's favorable reports and passage of the bills on the Consent Calendar which are as follows:

On page 1, Calendar No. 1556, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 0255, An Act Concerning Certain Vehicles Travelling at Slow Speed on Highways, file 1513.

Calendar No. 1560, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 412, An Act Concerning the Admission of Electors by Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters, file 1698.

Calendar No. 1562, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 448, An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Department Hearings, file 1596.

S-82
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE

PROCEEDINGS
1971

VOL. 14
PART 7
2874-3413

THE CLERK:

The following bills were passed on a Consent Motion by Senator Caldwell with the approval of the Minority Leader;

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Substitute House Bill 8682. House Bill 5854. JUDICIARY: Substitute House Bill 7495. House Bill 5662; Substitute House Bill 851. GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Senate Bill 652; Senate Bill 1145; JUDICIARY Senate Bill 1788; Senate Bill 805; Substitute Senate Bill 1093; Substitute Senate Bill 868; Substitute Senate Bill 1441; BANKS AND REGULATED ACTIVITIES: Substitute Senate Bill 467; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: Senate Bill 1833; JUDICIARY Substitute Senate Bill 1296; TRANSPORTATION: Senate Bill 1115; Substitute Senate Bill 255; ELECTIONS: Substitute Senate Bill 508; JUDICIARY: Substitute Senate Bill 1022; Substitute Senate Bill 1543; TRANSPORTATION: Substitute Senate Bill 1807; JUDICIARY Substitute Senate Bill 550; substitute senate bill 823; JUDICIARY: Senate Bill 898. TRANSPORTATION Substitute Senate Bill 807; FINANCE: Substitute Senate Bill 1576; Senate Bill 1570; Substitute Senate Bill 1572; Substitute Senate Bill 1549; Substitute Senate Bill 1549; Substitute Senate Bill 1625; Substitute Senate Bill 1045; TRANSPORTATION: Substitute Senate Bill 815; EDUCATION: Substitute Senate Bill 1840; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: House Bill 6870; House Bill 9249; INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE: House Bill 6995; GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY: House Bill 9242.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to the passage of the bills, as called by the Clerk? If not, Senator Fauliso, do you move the passage of all said bills?