

"A Night with Heywood Broun"

Recorded by Ed Allen - October, 1973

2/26/74

In 1939 Heywood Broun was invited to be a guest at the Thursday night meeting of the Neiman Fellows at Harvard University. These evenings, like the Black Cat dinners at the San Francisco Press Club are off the record, but Heywood has been dead long enough so that I feel that I am not violating the confidence of the Neiman Fellows to report what happened on the memorable evening.

Louis Lyons, a former member of the Guild on the Boston Globe, had been named Curator of the Neiman Foundation. When he invited Broun I briefed him how not to invade Broun's privacy on the fact that he was taking instructions to become a Catholic. Ed Leahy, who had been in the first year of the Neiman Fellows was one of the guests, and had been involved in the three-way correspondence between Rev. Edward Dowling, S.J., in St. Louis - a former delegate to a Guild convention - and Leahy and myself. I told Louie that if he asked a certain question and that if Broun responded affirmatively, it would be alright to ask the second question.

Broun apparently was anxious to tell us about his conversion which occurred at a time when the Socialist Party in New York had denounced Broun for playing ball with the Communists and when the Communists regarded him

as nearly a Fellow of their own. The facts were then that the Monseigneur 19  
*Sheen* *Sheen*  
Sheehan (later Bishop Fulton Sheehan) was giving Broun instructions partly 20  
as a result of his conversations with the second wife, Connie, who was the widow 21  
of Ray Dooley. 22

We loaded the dinner with our guests from the faculty who we regarded as 23  
Communists. One of the prominent ones was Granville Hicks, the historian 24  
who had been accused and, I guess had been a Communist, although he later 25  
publicly denounced the Party. This was before Ed Leahy went on the wagon, and he 26  
was just a trifle high. At one point in the proceedings he pointed an accusing 27  
finger at President Conant of Harvard and said, "You're a bunch of APA bastards." 28  
I'm sure that no president of Harvard had ever been so accused by a member of 29  
the faculty before. 30

Granville Hicks who may have been an authority on certain aspects of 31  
American history, betrayed his total ignorance of the theological and 32  
religious origins of the United States in his remarks. 33

After the dinner Broun and I went to the Stag Club which is a late 34  
night drinking spot. 35

The most memorable thing which occurred that night was Broun's account 36  
of his conversation with Arthur Brisbane who was the correspondent on the 37

left side of the front page of the Hearst Newspapers. Brisbane invited 38  
Broun as an old friend to dinner at his house. After dinner he took 39  
Broun into the living room and told him, "Mr. Hearst wants you to come to 40  
work for King Features. He suggested that you hold up Ray Howard for 41  
the biggest raise you can get because he is prepared to double whatever 42  
Scripps-Howard pays you." Over the mantelpiece of the fireplace was a 43  
portrait of Arthur Brisbane's father who was a well-known Socialist philoso- 44  
pher in those days. Broun looked at Arthur and said, "What if I went to your 45  
old man and asked him if I should accept this offer from Hearst?" Brisbane 46  
said, "That's not fair, I have an assignment to get you to sign a contract." 47  
Broun said, "As an old friend and a guest in your house I insist on an 48  
answer, what would your father say?" Brisbane shrugged, looked at Broun, 49  
lifted another drink and said "He'd tell you to tell him to stick it up his 50  
ass." 51

When the time came to say goodnight Heywood asked me to call him a cab. 52  
I said, "I'm afraid you're out of luck, the taxi drivers are on strike in 53  
Cambridge and the cabs are being driven by supervisors and scabs." Although 54  
he was in bad health, Broun walked to the subway kiosk at Harvard Square. 55  
During the trip he pulled out his famous flask for one more drink. 56

I said, "Has Connie given you back the flask?" He said, "That was part of the deal." 57  
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No one who didn't know Broun personally would understand what went on his mind but, more especially, in his heart. Connie told him about the troubles that were plaguing the chorus girls on Broadway due to the depression which was still an element in 1939 in the theatre business. 59  
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Broun helped to organize a Broadway musical, "Shoot the Works" in which there was a double chorus line to give as many jobs as possible and in which the principles took only the Actors Equity minimum. One of the principles was Broun himself who performed six nights and two matinees a week and never missed a performance and never was late for a rehearsal or for a performance. What this must have done to Broun's insides can only be imagined. He came off the stage sweating and in real agony. He did a little dance and carried a sign advertising his candidacy for Alderman on the Socialist Party ticket. 63  
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The show was a success for many weeks but finally the time came when it should have been closed. Instead the tickets were sent to Joe LeBlang for sale as half-price tickets and Broun put in enough of his own money to keep the show going an additional two weeks. 72  
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His sacrifice of money, however, was slight compared to the enormous problem 76  
of getting to all those performances and rehearsals on time and sweating 77  
through a two-hour performance. 78

A boo-boo by Heywood Broun was the real reason why greater Boston local 79  
is Local #32 instead of Local #6 or 7. The Boston Guild could not afford 80  
a Hall and so we had our meetings in the Boston School Committee rooms. 81  
Broun accompanied by Jonathon Eddy tried his best to explain to us the 82  
difference between a professional guild and a trade union. He supposed 83  
that the newspaper men in Boston were conservative. What he didn't know 84  
and what Professor Daniel Leib (who wrote the admirable book, THE UNION 85  
OF INDIVIDUALS) did not know was that the Newswriter's Local #1 - a 86  
Federally chartered local of the AFL - was very/much alive and that there 87  
were 17 paid up cards in the room when Broun and Eddy spoke. 88

After the meeting the Newswriters held a caucus and decided that we 89  
would hold on to our charter a little longer until the Guild learned that 90  
it had to be a trade union. 91

Mr. Leib in his book refers several times to the efforts of the Boston 92  
Newswriters to obtain a contract in 1919. Since there was no record of 93  
what really happened, Mr. Leib can be forgiven for not being aware 94

that the Boston Newswriters held what may have been the first successful 95  
strike by newswriters in history. in 1919. <sup>they</sup> ~~we~~ didn't call it a strike 96  
they called it a continuous meeting and it was held in Fennell Hall until 97  
William O. Taylor, publisher of the Boston Globe and who was supposed to 98  
be on a vacation trip, finally was brought out and agreed to negotiate a 99  
settlement. Since most of the copyreaders and reporters at that time were 100  
receiving in the vicinity of \$28 - \$30 a week, and since the settlement 101  
resulted in a minimum wage for copyreaders and reporters of \$42 a week, 102  
many of the people received a raise of \$14. Unfortunately the Newswriters 103  
had no professional assistance in their bargaining. They sold out newsmen 104  
with less than three year's experience, they sold out the photographers, 105  
and they sold out office boys, clerks, and librarians with the result 106  
that when it came time to negotiate another settlement, they no longer 107  
had the clout necessary. Some of the cubs had become journeymen and hated 108  
the Newswriters for that reason. Mr. Leib in his book also referred to 109  
the organization of newsmen in the International Typographical Union 110  
as having died out quickly. Actually the Boston Newswriter's Local #1 did 111  
not stop paying dues to Local #13 of the Typographical Union until the 44- 112  
hour strike in Connecticut. This was called by printers working six days 113

a week and who wanted to have a half day off - 44 hours a week. The 114  
Typographical Union slapped an assessment of 10% of wages on its members. 115  
Someone started a campaign of no taxation without representation for newsmen. 116  
Newsmen were not journalists and had no vote in the interaational elections 117  
of the ITW, but only a vote for their own elected officers. That was the 118  
time when the newsmen seceded from the ITU and subsequently obtained a 119  
charter as a Federally chartered local of the AFL. 120

One of the difficulties which Professor Leib encountered in writing his 121  
book was obtaining access to the files of the locals. At the beginning 122  
the officers of the locals carried their papers in their hat because they 123  
had no offices. Boston was one such local. And some of the records of 124  
the Boston local and all of the records of the Newswriters were blown away 125  
during one of the hurricanes that plagued New England every few years. I 126  
had them stored in a shed when I was in Eurppe. Everything in the shed 127  
was blown away. 128

Actually Boston had some kind of union organization for many years. I 129  
think that I was Vice President of the Boston Central Labor Union before 130  
we got our charter, or certainly before our first contract. In any event 131  
the Boston Guild marched proudly at the head of the Labor Day parade of 132

of the Boston Central Labor Union with a 32 foot banner which proclaimed 133  
us as the "baby" union of the AFL. We were placed at the head of the 134  
procession because many of us had to take pictures or report the parade and 135  
we fell out at the parade terminus and did our job. Governor James Michael 136  
Curley, hero of THE LAST HURRAH, appeared on the reviewing stand with his 137  
top hat. When he saw the newspaper men march by, he climbed down from 138  
the stand, took off his hat, and made a deep bow. None of the papers saw 139  
fit to run that picture. The only casualty of the parade was Stewart French 140  
a reporter on the Christian Science Monitor. The Monitor fired him for 141  
keeping such bad company. 142

When the Guild got its charter as Local #32, we telephoned Secretary- 143  
Treasurer Randolph of the AFL for permission to surrender the Newswriter's 144  
charter to the Guild. Mr. Randolph was a member of the ITU and refused. 145  
I surrendered it anyway with the result that since the death of Joe Walch 146  
in Wilkes-Barre, PA, I believe I am the only surviving member of the 147  
Federally chartered locals in Wilkes-Barre, Lynn, Waterbury, CT, Boston, 148  
I think Scranton and some others. The so-called Federally chartered local 149  
Record  
at the Boston/American covering the editorial department came into being 150  
as a new Federal local organized by Mike Flynn former reporter on the 151

Boston Herald and for many years a labor lobbyist in Washington. Joe Walch 152  
joined the Newswriters in 1925 and listed me as having joined in 1926. 153  
Actually I held a day-to-day card as a copyreader in the "big 6" Typographical 154  
local in New York City in 1926 and 1927 due to the intercession of a member 155  
of the executive board of the New York Typographical named Schubert. I was 156  
classified as a copyreader. At that time I was Managing Editor of the 157  
Long Island News and Richmand Hill Record - two small newspapers in Queens 158  
County. 159

Professor Leib in writing his well-researched book had no way of knowing 160  
from the files of the Guild that the Woensocket local had been organized 161  
by what is known in Rhode Island as the ITU - the Independent Textile Union - 162  
an industrial Union which organized nearly everybody in Woxsocket and had 163  
already bargained for the newswriters on the Woxsocket Call before the 164  
Guild came along and accepted them into membership. 165

Mr. Leib also refers on several occasions to the Jewish Writers Club 166  
which was very helpful to the Guild in the beginning. The Jewish Writer's 167  
Club on the Jewish and Jewish Day in New York was a Federally 168  
chartered local of the AFL and subsequently during the Milton Koffman 169  
era accused the Guild of dual unionism when it tried to organize cubs, 170

office boys and others and took them out on strike. 171

I remember very vividly at one convention the New York Local presented 172  
a resolution denouncing Frank Rosenbloom as Vice President of The Amalgamated 173  
Clothing Workers and Fiorella LaGuardia as union busters because they 174  
had friends in the Jewish Writer's Club and supported them. I took the 175  
floor to complain that if we denounced LaGuardia as a union buster at our 176  
convention it would look pretty bad when the time came to support him for 177  
re-election against Bill O'Dwyer. I thought I had made a point, but when 178  
the votes were counted only Boston and Rochester, New York (scene of a great 179  
many plants organized in Amalgamated Clothing Workers) voted against 180  
denouncing Mr. Rosenbloom and Mr. LaGuardia as union busters. 181

The late Bill Davey told me on several occasions that Cleveland became 182  
Local #1 because it was nurtured into being by the stereotypers and our 183  
obligations in those days to other unions and preceding unions is rather 184  
more than I think Mr. Leib in his book realized. For instance, the Lynn 185  
Newswriters had something like \$30,000 in their treasury at a time when 186  
the National was happy to have \$500. The reason for this is that Clement 187  
Kennedy, then the owner of the New Ocean House in Swampscot was the son 188  
of a City Editor of the Waterbury Republican and very found of helping 189

newspapermen. And he have the Lynn Newswriters the New Ocean House for their 190  
annual time. When they joined the Guild the money was deposited in a trust 191  
to provide a death or retirement benefit for the people who owned it. And 192  
I believe that that money has now all been expended. 193  
Toby Lyons, later International Vice President of the International 194  
Typographical Union was extremely helpful and went with me to Salem while 195  
I tried to organize the newsmen on the Salem News, he tried to organize 196  
the printers. Salem was a "no-no" town on unions having only a few union 197  
barbers and a few motion picture operators, but Mr. Lyons was successful 198  
and the people on the Salem News got what they wanted. They only trouble 199  
with the Salem local was that I oversold them on the importance of the 200  
strike weapon as the ultimate tool of trade unions and they seemed to 201  
feel that it was necessary to strike in order to prove they had a union. 202  
Warren Rockwell, who later became Managing Editor and Negotiator for the 203  
company, but who at that time was President of the Salem Guild, was the 204  
Salem Correspondent of the Boston Herald. Frank Reynolds, the secretary 205  
was the Salem correspondent of the Globe. After our first contract was 206  
signed they called me and said that the company had employed a sort of 207  
union-buster in the accounting department and he tells us we have to give 208

up our correspondents, now may we go on strike?" I said, "No, you can't 209  
have a strike until you have exhausted your efforts to arbitrate under 210  
the contract and to grieve under the contract. Why don't you send a 211  
committee over to the office of the trustee, <sup>Discut</sup> Mr. Jackson, and remind him 212  
that this was all negotiated; that you couldn't be correspondents for the 213  
Beverly Times or the Lynn Item, but that you could be correspondents for 214  
the Boston newspapers." I heard no more for about a week. Then I called 215  
and asked what happened about the grievance. They said "Oh that was 216  
settled, we followed your advice and sent a committee." I said, "Who 217  
was on the committee?" They said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Who was 218  
on the committee that went to see Mr. Jackson?" They said, "We all 219  
were." I said, "The entire staff?" He said, "Yes." I said, "What time 220  
of day was that?" He said, "Around ten o'clock in the morning." I said, 221  
"And the Salem News is an evening newspaper?" He said, "Yes, we stayed 222  
there until he settled." I said, "You didn't go out on strike, you 223  
just all knocked off work and went over and saw the trustee?" He said, 224  
"That's right." It was that kind of spirit. When I bargained with the 225  
Salem Evening News I had to have caucuses every so often to tell the boys 226  
to put away their picket signs and stop massing up to strike. 227

It was that kind of spirit that provided us with the first 35-hour week

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in New England on the Salem Evening News.

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Corrections from Mr. Allen

In referring to Arthur Brisbane's column text should read. "left side of  
the front page" (page 3, this trans. line 38)

Relating to our membership in ITU delete the word rump. (Page 6, line 110)

This was, of course, a genuine membersip. We started  
somewhere around 1892 at about the same time that the  
first local of the ITU Mailer's was formed in Boston. (166)

The strike called by the Jewish Writer's Club was on Jewish Day. (page 9  
starting with line 166)

Recorded by Ed Allen - December, 1973

Professor Daniel Leab, in his book A UNION OF INDIVIDUALS quotes an 1  
 unidentified Boston reporter as saying, "If the publishers had said boo 2  
 during the initial stages, every newspaper man in Boston would have quit." 3  
 Let's see how much merit there was to that accusation of timidity in Boston. 4

Edmond Noble, active in the organization of the Newspaper Guild, had 5  
 been Moscow correspondent of the Times of London; he was chased out of 6  
 Russia by the Cheka - the Czar's secret police-and became the London 7  
 correspondent of the New York Times. He was art critic of the Boston 8  
 Transcript until it got in trouble and went to the Boston Herald as art 9  
 critic. Mr. Noble was over 90 years of age when he attended the first 10  
 meeting and said in his small squeaky voice, "Fellows I have been waiting 11  
 all my life for this Newspaper Guild to happen and I hope you will not be 12  
 so stupid as to let it pass." 13

John McHugh, a senior copyreader on the Boston Herald..... 14

Hearst, Sr.  
 "Would you like to hear what William Randolph/said to me when he came to 15  
 Boston?" He said, "John, how can we get the other newspaper men in Boston 16  
 in the Newswriter's Union so that I can start to pay Hearst wages in Boston? 17  
 The pay on these other papers is making it impossible for me to pay the kind 18

of salaries I would like to pay." 19

Geoffrey Parsons, Jr., later editor of the Paris  
...../edition of the Herald Tribune, was taken to a Gridiron Club 20

dinner in Washington by some of the supervisors on the Boston Globe and 21

returned and returned quite shaken up. He said, "There are newspaper men 22

in Boston who have no future if they remain active in the Guild." We asked 23

Parsons whether he intended to resign as secretary and he said, "No, I'll 24

finish my term but I don't want to run for re-election." 25

John Barry of the Boston Globe, who later became Vice President of 26

the Shoremont National Bank in Boston, was extremely active in bargaining 27

and in grievance sessions particularly at the Boston Herald Traveller where 28

his pet peeve was Robert Bernard Choate who later became publisher. 29

Louis M. Lyons of the Boston Globe Unit later became Curator of the 30

Neiman Foundation of Harvard University and is still reading the news at 31

night on the educational channel. 32

David M. Frederick, the first president elected to affiliate with the 33

Newspaper Guild, went on to become Vice President of Columbia Broadcasting 34

System television news. 35

Wesley Fuller who was in the first group of Neiman Fellows at Harvard 36

University in 1938 and 39 became the voice of the Bell Telephone Laboratories. 37

I am sure that none of these individuals was afraid of losing his job at 38  
any time. 39

I remember very distinctly when a prominent Boston attorney who stuttered 40  
called Leonard Ware, an editorial writer on the Boston Herald, and said, "Beanie 41  
(Mr. Choate's nickname) Choate is down here at the Harvard Club squashed and he 42  
says he is going to use this Newspaper Guild contract as a way of getting rid 43  
of a bunch of troublemakers." We called an emergency meeting of the negotiating 44  
committee which had just reached a tentative agreement with the Herald and 45  
asked each other "Do you feel afraid of being discharged as a troublemaker?" 46  
No one seemed afraid. We said, "Well I guess we have to reopen the contract 47  
negotiations for the purpose of getting a better severance pay clause." We 48  
notified Mr. Choate that we had hit a snag in getting approval of the contract 49  
and wanted a meeting. We told him that we had made a mistake on the severance 50  
pay clause which at that time provided six weeks severance. He asked why. 51  
We said, "Well there's a rumor all around the shop that you were down at the 52  
Harvard Club last night and said you were going to use this severance pay clause 53  
to get rid of a bunch of troublemakers. We had a meeting and decided that we 54  
weren't the ones affected. The people who were affected were the frightened 55  
people on the fringes and although we know that you never said any such thing, 56

and we believe implicitly that the story is propaganda nevertheless it has 57  
become so widespread in the shop that we want to change the severance pay 58  
clause." After a long argument Mr. Choate agreed to put in twelve week's 59  
severance pay instead of six. 60

The first Guild grievance in New England involved Henry Erlich whose 61  
father owned Huvvey's Department Store and who was working without salary. 62  
The publisher of the Boston Herald was Robert Preston. We approached 63  
Mr. Preston with our grievance and he said, "Well what do you want me to 64  
do, fire him or give him \$10 a week." We said that neither proposal was 65  
satisfactory and by the time the meeting ended we had gotten Mr. Erlich 66  
\$25 a week. Mr. Erlich went on to become articles editor and managing 67  
editor of Look magazine. 68

After several unsuccessful attempts to get Mr. Preston to bargain 69  
in good faith we finally came to a meeting loaded for bear. Mr. Preston 70  
opened with his usual happy family speech indicating if we would trust him 71  
he saw no reason why we needed a union. We then said, "Mr. Preston the 72  
last time we were in here you said you would be darned if you would be the 73  
first publisher in New England to sign a contract with the Newspaper Guild. 73  
The sole and only purpose of this meeting is to find out if you have changed 74

your mind." There was a long silence, at the end of which Mr. Preston said, 75  
"Yes I think I have changed my mind." We did not achieve a contract with 76  
Mr. Preston at that time, but we did achieve a bulletin board notice initialed 77  
by both parties. Our first contract was negotiated with Mr. Choate, Mr. 78  
Preston's successor. 79

This report would not be complete if I did not mention Charles Leveroni, 80  
for many years treasurer of the Boston Guild, and delegate to a great many 81  
national conventions. 82

When Ralph Harper, a president of the local, blew his top while trying 83  
to cover a murder investigation in Providence, Rhode Island, he was taken 84  
by the Rhode Island State Police to a mental institution. The Guild grieved 85  
and Mr. Choate agreed to transfer him to the McLean Sanitorium, a private 86  
institution. When Mr. Harper was released he asked for a convalescent trip 87  
to Florida. Mr. Choate, after a great deal of hemming and hawing, agreed. 88  
Unfortunately for us and for Mr. Harper thereafter, the company was unable to 89  
get into communication with him. All letters and telegrams and telephone calls 90  
were ignored with the result that Mr. Harper was separated from the payroll. 91  
For nearly a year Charlie Leveroni, sometimes assisted by me, took up the 92  
collection to take care of a benefit for Mr. Harper - since the Guild didn't 93

have enough money in its treasury to do anything. 94

The most amusing event that happened with Mr. Harper was that he was one 95  
of the copyreaders layed off when the Philadelphia Evening News was in trouble. 96  
We had to find a job for him again and put him on the copy desk of the Lynn 97  
Item in Lynn, MA, where he proceeded to write letters to the publisher 98  
criticizing the decisions of the managing editor. And he was again separated. 99  
There was very nearly a strike on the Lynn Item over this discharge. My 100  
recollection is that Mr. Harper went back to work for a while. In any event 101  
he was unemployed when the Mailers went on strike in Boston and he promptly, 102  
although a member of the Lynn Guild, applied for a benefit since the Guild was 103  
honoring the Mailer's picket line. I complained to John Court, then adminis- 104  
trative officer of the Lynn Guild, that Mr. Harper was not a member of the 105  
Boston Local and therefore not entitled to a benefit. But somehow the Boston 106  
Guild succeeded in providing him the equivalent of a benefit. 107

One of the early dropouts from the Guild was Joseph Daneen a columnist 108  
for the Boston Globe who wrote such best sellers as WARD EIGHT, a book about 109  
a ward healer named Martin Lemazni, THE KENNEDY'S OF MASSACHUSETTS, and 110  
TWELVE BRIDGE TO CROSS, a novel based on the famous Brinks robbery. 111  
Mr. Daneen saw a chance to sell an article to the Saturday Evening Post 112

entitled "Goodbye Boys, I'm Through." He criticized the Guild and suggested 113  
that it was Communist dominated. The men on the Boston Globe refused to talk 114  
to him, so I as president of the Boston Guild went to the Globe office and 115  
invited him to lunch. I said that under the constitution of the Guild - 116  
a paragraph which I helped write at the first Cleveland convention - he could 117  
not be disciplined for anything which he wrote for publication. I said, however 118  
that I could not protect him from the fact that he had not paid his dues. He 119  
agreed to give me a check for his dues if I would defend him and at the hearing 120  
(I believe it was the whole local). I pointed out that much as I disliked the 121  
article he had a right to write the article and he was reinstated. Mr. Daneen 122  
later paid me for my help by later going with me to Providence, Rhode Island 123  
to help organize the editorial departments of the Providence newspapers. 124  
He made a speech in which he said, "Fellows don't make the mistake which I 125  
made in 1939, Get into the Guild and get in with both feet." 126

Few people are aware of the immense sacrifices made by John Court during 127  
his period as administrative officer of the Guild. I think it is now time 128  
that they be told. Mr. Court had 10 children. Yet for months on end he worked 129  
a 4-day week in order to conserve the general fund assets of the Boston local. 130  
He could hardly have supported his family if he had worked a 5-day week on the 131

kind of pay that the Boston Guild was able to provide. Nevertheless whenever 132  
the Boston Guild got into financial difficulty Court put himself on a 4-day 133  
week. During the short time that I was administrative officer I did the same 134  
thing but without sacrifice, since there was always work for me to do in other 135  
cities the fifth or even the sixth day. 136

If I am sure of anything, I am sure that those early leaders in Boston 137  
benefitted greatly from their Guild activity. This was true of other cities. 138  
Norman Corwin who was a very successful radio writer before television and 139  
who has since had a television show was the first chairman of the New England 140  
District Council. I take that back, I'm not sure whether he or I was the 141  
first chairman. Norman Corwin at that time worked on one of the papers in 142  
Springfield, MA and I am sure that he benefitted greatly from his Guild 143  
experience. 144

In Salem all of the top brass in management are former Guild activists. 145  
Warren Rockwell, for many years managing editor and negotiator for the company, 146  
was the first president of the Salem Guild. The publisher, treasurer, and 147  
advertising manager are all former Guild members. Jim Shea, the present 148  
editor, and sometime negotiator for the company, was for many years a delegate 149  
to the New England District Council and former president of the Salem local. 150

In Providence, Rhode Island Wilbur Doctor, who complained in one meeting 151  
that he had had four \$8 raises in six months and who was indignant at the 152  
attempt - as he saw it - to bribe him is now on the faculty of the University 153  
of Rhode Island or it may be, on leave of absence as a member of the faculty. 154

Wynn Parks in Providence want on to become one of the top photographers 155  
for National Geographic and his seascapes and sea scenes are one of the most 156  
beautiful parts of that magazine. 157

Redwood Wright - I think he was the first president of the Providence 158  
Guild - one of the early presidents - joined the Oceanographic Institute 159  
at Woodshole, MA as public relations officer, became so interested that he 160  
went back to the university for a degree in pure science, and is still at 161  
Woodshole. 162

William McNamara, another early president, went into politics and is, 163  
last time I heard from him, chairman of a commission. 164

Joseph Ungaro, managing editor in Providence, was chairman of the Guild 165  
Drafting Committee that drafted the first Guild proposal on the Providence 166  
Journal and Bulletin. 167

In Lynn, MA, the sale of the Lynn Telegram News to the Lynn Item 168  
was delayed nearly a year while the publisher tried to solve the problem of 169

a half-million dollars in severance pay. Toby Lyons, Vice President of 170  
the International Typographical Union had negotiated the same severance 171  
pay clause for the Typographical Union as the Guild enjoyed in its 172  
jurisdiction. The company was unable to find a way to avoid paying severance 173  
pay to the union printers and Guildsmen and Fred Bohler, a good many times 174  
president of the Lynn Guild swiped the Sunday mailing list of the Sunday 175  
Telegram News and started a new paper called the Lynn Sunday Post financed 176  
entirely by severance pay of printers and Guildsmen. This paper is still 177  
in existence although I don't believe it is any great shakes as a profit 178  
maker. 179

In Waterbury, CT, Gene Martin, who was president of the Guild at the 180  
time it was decertified in 1957, had become city editor of The Republican 181  
when I was approached by a group of new employees who wanted to revive the 182  
Guild. The Waterbury local might be surprised to know that as soon as I 183  
received the request I telephoned Gene Martin to ask whether the old timers 184  
would also like to see the Guild come back. Gene put me in touch with a 185  
reporter named Greg Chillson who agreed that the men did want the Guild. 186  
I went to Waterbury on a rainy night, got enough cards filled out in the 187  
city room to file for an election, informed Mr. Chillson that if they did 188

as well on the American the next forenoon I would file for an election. 189

They telephoned me to tell me how many cards they had, we did file and did 190

win the election. Gane Martin is now editor-in-chief of both papers. Greg 191

Chillson has the title of Managing Editor and is in charge of all the bureaus 192

and correspondents. 193

Like many Guilds, the Waterbury Guild made the mistake of organizing only 194

the editorial department, and its weakness in bargaining is the result. 195

Many of the early Guilds that died a-borning or soon after they were born 196

suffered from the same trouble - Meridan, CT, Nashua, NH, where we had one 197

of our first strikes in New England. 198

The Guild although set up to be an industrial union, did not take full 199

advantage of its opportunity at the beginning. There was a certain snobbishness 200

among some of the editorial writers as is well described by Professor Leib in 201

his book. The Boston Guild, however, had no such qualms. We already had 34 202

maintenance department employees in our editorial unit before the Guild constitution 203

was modified to extend our jurisdiction over other departments. The Boston 204

Guild's anxiety to form an industrial union was evidenced at the first Cleveland 205

convention because we didn't want to be in the position of having to drop our 206

34 maintenance department members. We nearly had a strike one year when the 207

publisher wrote us a letter to the effect that SameBlacker, one of the janitor 208  
guards, could not have a raise because due to the annual increase he was 209  
probably the highest paid janitor in the United States. It came during a period 210  
when the Guild was in the doldrums. A mass meeting of the unit was called 211  
and voted overwhelmingly to strike the paper rather than settle a contract with- 212  
out a raise for Sam. 213

I well remember when a sociologist from Simmons College came to investi- 214  
gate what was happening at the Boston Herald Traveller. He asked me about the 215  
Guild. I said, "Why don't you ask the man who is polishing the brass on the 216  
elevator." Sam Blacker turned around and said, "It's a miracle. Before the 217  
Guild I had one day off every two weeks. I worked 84 hours one week and 72 218  
hours the next for \$23 a week. Now I have the Guild minimum and a six-day, 219  
40-hour week." 220

At the beginning of the NRA we worked six short days totaling 40 hours 221  
a week but overtime was frowned upon and those who had to work it were apt 222  
not to put in a claim for their overtime. 223

Professor Leib in his book refers on several occasions to the NRA proposal 224  
as a five-day, 40-hour week. It was a 40-hour week, but the publisher could 225  
stretch it out to six short days. Professor Leib also was unaware that I was 226

proxy for Clode Baker, at that time Vice President of the Typographical 227

Union on the Newspaper Industrial Board of the NRA. 228

3/16/74

"The Pro-Guild Caucus"

Recorded by Ed Allen #3

I have never told anyone until now, not even members of the Boston 1  
Guild, why I was so active in the "pro-Guild" caucus. During the Chicago 2  
American strike I telephone Victor Pasche who, at that time, was secretary- 3  
treasurer of the Guild, to find out what assets would be available to Boston 4  
if we used our strike vote against the Boston Herald Traveler. Pasche 5  
replied, "You will have to finance the strike yourself for a few weeks 6  
because all of our money is tied up with the Chicago strike" I felt at 7  
least let down, but next day I persuaded the negotiating committee to visit 8  
the publisher and to get the best settlement available - backed by a strike 9  
vote of 218 - 22. At any rate it was overwhelming. We succeeded in getting 10  
some improvements in management's counter offer and settled. 11

Sam Eubanks was chairman of the pro-Guild caucus at the 1941 convention 12  
If memory is correct I served on the Constitution Committee. In any event our 13  
purpose was to obtain a referendum election of officers instead of having the 14  
officers elected by the convention. Sam Eubanks was rather quick to lose his 15  
temper and called me to task before the caucus for playing ball with what he 16  
called the enemy. I had a clear choice of explaining to the caucus what I was 17  
doing in the constitution committee thereby informing the administration of my 18

purpose, or of pretending to be stupid. I chose the latter course and 19  
apologized to Eubanks for doing something of which I was proud. 20

The New York local was represented on the constitution committee by 21  
Nat Einhorn who was conceited enough to think that the administration could 22  
win a national vote by the membership. I had traded some contract language 23  
desired by the New York local for New York's crucial 34 votes for national 24  
feferendum election of officers. Without New York's vote the referendum 25  
election might have been delayed another year. | The highlight of the campaign 26  
which followed was a meeting in Manhattan<sup>A</sup> Center arranged by the New York 27  
local. New Yorkers challenged the pro-Guild caucus ticket <sup>to</sup> for what they 28  
called a debate. Wilbur Bade and I divided expenses of nearly \$800 to make 29  
sure that ~~nearly~~ every single candidate on the pro-Guild ticket was there. 30  
The one who made the biggest sacrifice was Jim Farmer who came from Seattle. 31

At a caucus before the meeting started I pointed out that the adminis- 32  
tration had no intention of debate. I said, "Let's go in there and attack, 33  
attack, attack. Do not try to make a debate out of it. Just Attack them." 34  
Joe Walsh from Wilkes-barre, PA, and Bade from Twin Cities backed my position. 35  
Eubanks finally relented and assigned me to go first. 36

Donal M. Sullivan, President of the Newspaper Guild and administration 37  
candidate for reelection, was employed on the Boston Globe. I read to the 38  
meeting

a note from Henry Harris, Chairman of the Globe unit, in which he said, 39  
"Dear Ed: Because he is my friend and because we have worked together for 40  
so many years, I have to support Don Sullivan for reelection, but will you 41  
please go down to New York and explain to that meeting that due to the 42  
stupidity of Milton Kauffman and the New York local we have lost two 43  
National Labor Relations Board elections on the Boston Globe". 44

The Globe lost one election by 19 votes. I can count on my two hands 45  
enough Globe members who voted (strike preceeding) 46

I told the meeting we had lost one election by 19 votes and I could 47  
count on my two hands enough votes to have overturned the result from Globe 48  
members disgusted because the New York local had telegraphed the strikers 49  
at the North American Aviation Company urging them to stay on strike after 50  
their union, The United Automobile Workers, had ordered them to return to 51  
work and after President Roosevelt had pleaded with them to return to work. 52

The meeting was ~~loaded~~ jam<sup>2</sup>packed with the den<sup>2</sup>izens of Union Square, 53  
many of whom were not newspapermen at all, and many of whom read only the 54  
Daily Worker. They started to boo me, but I had the microphone. ~~and~~ that 55  
gave me the chance to say, "Look, I have been so many years following the 56  
corkscrew curves <sup>OF</sup> ~~and~~ the Communist Party line that I am no longer impressed, 57

and if I have to have even one Communist vote to get elected to the IEB, 58  
do me a favor and elect somebody else. A good many Guild members are not 60  
present at this meeting tonight because they are back in their city rooms 61  
getting out tomorrow morning's edition of the New York Times, The Daily News, 62  
and The Herald Tribune. I am not speaking for those people here who are 63  
not Guild members and who have no vote, but only addressing myself to those 64  
people who will carry back word to the newspapers of New York City what is 65  
going on here." 66

After the meeting Eubanks scolded me and said, "You're killing us, Ed." 67  
I said, "I don't think so. I think enough serious newspaper men will carry 68  
back the word so that we will win even in New York City." I felt sure 69  
there was a silent majority of newspapermen in New York who would get the 70  
message and vote for us. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. 71  
William Rodgers, Guild candidate for secretary-treasurer, and I carried 72  
New York City. Rodgers was unopposed. As the only <sup>"no-Guild"</sup> opposed candidate who 73  
carried New York I received more votes than Milton Kauffman, our national 74  
executive vice president. 75

Sam Eubanks may have been the leader of the pro-Guild caucus, but 76  
Wilbur Bade was the strategist. At the first meeting of the new IEB after 77

the election, Bade assigned me to make several motions to fire international 78  
representatives. Bade asked me to make the motion to fire Fred Myers, 79  
Editor of the Guild Reporter. I rebelled. [ Myers had been a taxi driver 80  
in Kansas City who became the protege of one of his passengers, a newspaper 81  
editor. The newspaper editor later became a Hearst executive and brought 82  
Fred to Boston when he was transferred to the Boston Record American. 83  
Fred promptly joined the Guild and became so active that he was picked as 84  
the first executive secretary of the Boston Guild. [ Somebody else made the 85  
motion to fire Fred. Milton Kauffman came to the meeting, accompanied by 86  
counsel, and demanded proof that the people we were firing were Communists. 87  
Eubanks and others got into an argument with Kauffman. I intervened to 88  
protest. I said, "We weren't elected to prove anything. We were elected 89  
to fire them." I urged that we be generous to a fault in the matter 90  
of moving expenses, severance pay, vacation time, etc., but that we proceed 91  
to fire them. I have since wondered many times <sup>what might have happened</sup> if there had been a federation 92  
of Guild representatives then. 93

A year later, when I was on active duty with the War Department, I was 94  
assigned to recruit six newspapermen with the grade of Captain in the United 95  
States Army. I telephoned Sam Eubanks at Guild headquarters to inform him of 96

the openings. Within a week I had received requests from a half dozen of 97  
Milton Kauffman's followers. One even bragged that he had a dishonorable 98  
discharge from the Coast Artillery. I don't quite understand why he 99  
regarded that as a recommendation. Sam Eubanks investigated the leak 100  
and discovered that it came from a telephone operator he inherited from 101  
Milton Kauffman. *the previous administration.* 102

~~Note: Please check the proceedings of the 1941 convention. I'm 103  
not at all sure on second thought that I was chairman of the constitution 104  
committees. I was chairman of the constitution committee at the Detroit 105  
convention. Was that the 1941 convention? 106~~

Guild conventions today are pretty tame affairs compared with some 107  
of the bloody meetings in the early days. 108

Charles Whipple who is now editor of the editorial page of the 109  
Boston Globe was secretary of the Boston local <sup>in 1941</sup> when he wrote a letter to 110  
the Guild Reporter accusing me of taking a dive on the strike at the Lynn 111  
Item. The Lynn Guild demanded space in the Guild Reporter for a reply in 112  
my defense. They knew better than Charlie that I had to be there early in 113  
the morning, before he or any Globe pickets arrived, because it was a forty 114  
mile detour to Lynn on my way to classes at Harvard University where I was 115

a Neiman Fellow.

At the Detroit convention <sup>in the year</sup> ~~a year~~ earlier Milton Kauffman demanded what amounted to a "rump" trial on charges of Communism. He said that people were whispering in the corridors that he was a Communist and he demanded that they produce their evidence. As chairman of the constitution committee I raised a point of order. I said that the new constitution, as amended, set up trial procedures. ~~And~~ <sup>I</sup> in order to help Wilbur Bade have time to round up delegates, I ran a sort of filibuster. I began to read the new constitution almost from the preamble so that Bade could run around the hotel <sup>paging</sup> ~~rounding up~~ delegates. Although the trial was never held, the meeting lasted nearly all night.

~~Note: If the 1941 convention was held in Detroit, this tape is now in the clear. If not it needs revision.~~

The pro-Guild caucus really had its beginnings at the Toronto convention in 1938. That was the time when proportional representation was being advocated as a way to correct municipal abuses and the mayor of New York was elected by proportional representation.

The New York local succeeded in changing the Guild constitution so that the five members at large would be elected, one-by-one, in separate

elections. Heywood Broun saw a parliamentary problem developing and asked 134  
me to take the chair. 135

One of the issues was the election of Harry Martin of Memphis who 136  
later became President of the Guild. Martin was nominated by the Southern 137  
district caucus. The New York local and its allies nominated Quentin Gore 138  
of Chattanooga, brother of former Senator Harley Gore, as the Southern 139  
candidate. The Chicago local voted for Martin, thinking that the Southern 140  
district caucus nomination put him in the bag. After the votes were 141  
counted and <sup>the delegates</sup> Chicago discovered that their vote could change the result, 142  
they tried to change it. I ruled that since the votes had been counted 143  
and since their opportunity to change their vote had passed, Martin was 144  
elected. A big hassle developed, whereupon I ruled arbitrarily that 145  
Martin had been elected and that the first motion I would recognize 146  
would be a motion to overrule the chair. The left-wingers fell for my 147  
bait and moved to overrule the chair. <sup>then</sup> whereupon I ruled that the motion 148  
was not debatable and I spent fifteen or twenty minutes trying to explain 149  
to the convention what was happening. My thoroughly <sup>objective</sup> explanation 150  
attracted enough votes so that Martin won anyway, without the Chicago vote. 151

In fairness to the left-wingers I think it should be pointed out 152

that they were extremely important to the early development of the Guild. 153

They were the ones who walked the picket lines and <sup>accepted</sup> ~~did~~ the drudgery and 154

made the sacrifices necessary to win the strikes. 155

The pro-Guild caucus included several people who had formerly been 156

Communists or fellow Travellers. 157

One was Arthur Riordan of Philadelphia who later became a member 158

of the staff of the AFL-CIO News. Quite a few on both sides were not 159

Communists but rather Norman Thomas Socialists. Neither Broun<sup>a</sup> or Jonathon<sup>a</sup> 160

Eddy ever was a Communist or even a fellow Traveller. Many of us who 161

opposed the Franco Regime in Spain, thereby earning the hostility of 162

our more conservative brothers, were Catholics <sup>who</sup> ~~but~~ didn't like dictators. 163

[The Daily News unit of the New York Guild became so angry <sup>at</sup> ~~by~~ the inter- 164

ference by the Daily Worker unit that it brought charges against the 165

Daily Worker unit of being a "company-dominated union." [There was <sup>also</sup> a free-lance 166

unit and book and magazine unit that fell by the wayside because of their 167

political inclinations. 168

Don Sullivan, whose father was a democratic Congressman 169

from South Boston, never was a Communist, although he played ball with them 170

and was their candidate. 171

What annoyed the pro-Guild caucus was the way in which the left- 172  
wingers diligently followed the <sup>u</sup>party line<sup>u</sup> without regard to its effect 173  
on the Guild or on Guild Prospects. 174

One of the most interesting left-wingers in the Boston Guild was 175  
Richard O. Boyer, a cousin of Cardinal O'Connell and the best writer on 176  
the Boston Herald. Boyer had a habit of getting soused and then going to 177  
the New England Communist Party headquarters to apply for membership. 178

They <sup>confronted</sup> always threw him out, ~~and~~ he would ~~come~~ and cry on my shoulder 179

"because he wasn't good enough to become a Communist." He later wrote a letter 180  
to the Herald Tribune identifying himself as a member of the Central 181

Executive Committee of the Communist party. 182

~~Mr.~~ Boyer married the niece of a former Secretary of the Navy, 183

Charles Francis Adams, Boston banker. Somehow or another he got in an 184

argument with Mr. Adams when he was a guest at Adams' house and continued 185

the discussion the following night at a dinner of the United Fund where 186

Mr. Adams was presiding. He got up from the press table and shouted, 187

"Mr. Charles Francis Adams - You pink-faced s.o.b." Then noticing that 188

there were other people at the banquet he turned around and said, "And you - 189

you pink-faced s.o.b's. all. I hate you all. You rob the poor 365 days 190

a year and then come here and try to buy them off for eleven bucks." 191

I was at home, but Mrs. Boyer asked me to come to the hotel and try 192

to clean up what was happening. When I arrived, someone had succeeded in 193

pulling off Boyer's shoes, but he had fastened himself in a telephone 194

booth and wouldn't come out. I finally talked him out and took him 195

shoeless through the snow and slush to a restaurant for some black coffee. 196

He asked me what he should do. I said, " I can't tell you what Dick Boyer 197

would do, but I can tell you what Ed Allen would do. I would resign from 198

the paper." Boyer went to the New Yorker and later <sup>was</sup> on a short-lived 199

magazine called Friday. 200

The Guild may well be proud of one policy on which the old adminis- 201

tration and the pro-Guild new administration were in complete agreement. 202

From its earliest days the Guild fought racial ~~dis~~segregation. Newsmen 203

on several Southern papers tried to form lily-white locals. They were 204

<sup>instructed</sup> ~~ordered~~ to refuse discriminatory conditions and wages for black members 205

and ~~they~~ were ordered to admit all employees into their locals on an equal 206

basis. This, of course, meant that several locals died before they had 207

received a charter. 208

During my tour of duty at the Pentagon I had several interesting 209

experiences at meetings of the Washington Guild. I. F. Stone (~~Ingrid Frank~~) 210  
editor of the CID NEWS,  
and Len DeCaux offered a resolution one night denouncing the United States 211  
Army for requiring the ~~de~~segregation of Negro ~~B~~lood. I asked to see their 212  
evidence that the ~~United States~~ <sup>ARMY</sup> required such segregation, believing ~~that~~ 213  
~~it was~~ the American Red Cross ~~which~~ was to blame. Len DeCaux leaped to 214  
his feet and said, "I accept Colonel Allen's amendment." May Craig, the 215  
Washington correspondent of the Portland Press Herald -- the lady with the 216  
famous hats -- objected to my voting on the resolution. She said, "They're 217  
a bunch of Communists." I said, "May, my mother would turn in her grave 218  
if I took a dive on racial segregation." The resolution, as amended, 219  
denounced the Army as well as the Red Cross if in fact the Army was equally 220  
to blame. 221

One night when our member in the White House came to a meeting, 222  
Gordon Cole, Editor of The Machinist, took a seat on one side of Eleanor 223  
Roosevelt and I on the other to create a sort of buffer against the 224  
importunities of the left-wingers. 225

Columbia Pictures gave the Washington local a print of the Raymond 226  
Massey film, "The Invaders", to be shown at the National Press Club for 227  
the benefit of the strike fund. Mrs. Roosevelt and I were on the 228

committee. After one meeting a Guild member in uniform from Ft. Myers 229  
said he had missed the last bus and was AWOL. I persuaded Mrs. Roosevelt 230  
to write a little note for him informing "To Whom it May Concern" that she 231  
had detained him in conversation and was responsible for his being late. 232  
I told him, "Don't let the guard take that note away from you, because 233  
this is probably the first time that a private has been excused for 234  
tardiness by the wife of the <sup>Commander-in-Chief,</sup> ~~President of the United States.~~" 235

The group in the Guild most vocal in their attacks on the Communists 236  
and fellow travellers were the Norman Thomas Socialists; perhaps because 237  
they knew the Communists more intimately. After all, the Communists had 238  
been the left wing of the Socialist Party prior to the split and the 239  
formation of the Third International. 240

I can remember when William Laurence, highly respected science 241  
editor of the New York Times, wore an Earl Browder button to work in the 242  
office. Laurence, who had been chairman of the New York Times unit, later 243  
tried to form a new union of editorial employees on the Times. I think 244  
at one time they had as many as 13 members. 245

People are apt to forget that in those days the Red Army and the 246  
United States Army were attacking Hitler from two sides. ~~After all~~ <sup>this</sup> 247

may help to explain why persons holding such lofty jobs as Senior Editor 248  
of Time Magazine had a brief dalliance with the left wing during the war. 249

People forget that the test case establishing the constitutionality 250  
of the Wagner Labor Relations Act was a Guild case and that the case 251  
involved the firing of Morris Watson, an Associated Press reporter, who 252  
was suspected of being a Communist; or that the lawyer who won his spurs 253  
by winning that case was ~~none other than~~ David A. Morse, later Director General 254  
of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. 255

People forget that Harry Reade was Executive City Editor of the 256  
Chicago City American when the Guild struck that paper. Reade voted against 257  
the strike and no one expected to see the boss show up at strike headquarters 258  
the next morning. He ~~carried~~ <sup>arrived, carrying</sup> a galvanized <sup>iron</sup> bucket, some mops and brooms and 259  
detergents and said, "One of the things which always <sup>has</sup> disgusted me about 260

<sup>UNION</sup> <sup>offices</sup> strike headquarters was their filthiness. The Guild strike headquarters 261  
is going to be clean, and <sup>A</sup> anyone who drops a cigarette on the floor is going 262  
to hear from me." Reade later went to Washington as speech writer for 263  
Jim Carey, Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO, and remained in the labor movement 264  
until he retired. 265

One of the most difficult pieces of political juggling I ever ~~had~~ <sup>experienced</sup> 266

occurred at the Boston Evening Transcript. The Transcript <sup>was</sup> in 77B 267

bankruptcy proceedings <sup>which it</sup> imported William <sup>Hynes</sup> ~~Hines~~, a Hearst editor on the 268

West Coast ~~in California~~, to be the new business manager. Moses Smith, 269

a violin teacher, was music critic of the Boston Transcript and chairman 270

of the Guild unit. ~~Hines~~ saw an opportunity to weaken the Guild by 271

demoting Smith to hotel reporter and importing Redfern Mason, a Guild 272

martyr in California, to succeed him. The word went around that Mason 273

was a left-winger because he had run for public office in California on 274

a Labor Party ticket. The unit <sup>decided</sup> ~~virtually voted~~ not to talk to Mason. 275

I persuaded the unit that Mason was not to blame for ~~Hynes~~ <sup>U</sup> chicanery. 276

~~and~~ <sup>E</sup> eventually we found a job on Etude for Moses Smith. 277

Boston newspapers employ a group of people called <sup>"</sup> ~~Canada~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~points~~ <sup>"</sup>. 278

I don't know where the ~~word~~ <sup>name</sup> originated, but they are boss newsboys 279

stationed at strategic doorways and corners in the suburbs. In Boston 280

the <sup>a</sup> ~~Canada~~ points were members of the Newspaper Wagon Drivers Union 281

with the exception of the Boston Evening Transcript, whose <sup>a</sup> ~~Canada~~ points 282

were not organized. Somehow or ~~another~~, the New England Communist Party 283

headquarters got hold of some Guild application cards and organized 284

the Transcript's <sup>a</sup> ~~Canada~~ points. 285

The business agent of the Newspaper Wagon Drivers, now called the 286  
Distributors, had been very helpful to the Guild and had sat on our 287  
negotiating committee. We informed the New England Communist Party 288  
we were grateful for their interest~~s~~ but could not accept the Can<sup>a</sup>ida 289  
points who belonged to another jurisdiction. Victor Pasche, our 290  
national secretary-treasurer, came to Boston and ordered us to take the 291  
Transcript ~~Canada~~<sup>employees.</sup> points. He argued that men holding similar jobs were 292  
members of the Guild in Seattle, Washington. We replied that Dave Beck, 293  
at that time President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 294  
Chauffeurs, <sup>and Helpers</sup> Stablemen/of North America, had surrendered them to the 295  
Seattle Guild. I invited him to ask Mr. Beck to do likewise in Boston. 296  
Pasche called a caucus in the Mayflower <sup>Doughnut Shop</sup> donut shop to see what could be 297  
done about getting rid of Ed Allen. He didn't seem to get much encourage- 298  
ment. His action did recruit more supporters for the pro-Guild caucus. 300  
When the Guild went on strike at the Lynn Daily Item, the largest 301  
union in Lynn/~~MA~~ was the United Electrical Workers at General Electric. 302  
United Electrical Workers was accused of being left wing. Left wing or 303  
not, they gave two refrigerators to the Guild to be raffled off and they 304  
marched in a parade of several thousand strong, to support the Guild strike. 305

The chairman of the Boston Herald Traveler unit , Joseph Rosenau, 306  
and I went to Lynn and organized, with the help of the Electrical Workers, 307  
the distribution of some 30 ~~and~~ thousand copies of a strike newspaper. 308  
Ed Myers (described above) and his wife bore the main brunt of the Boston 309  
Guild participation, however, recruiting pickets and ~~doing a great deal of~~ *the larger part* 310  
the negotiating. 311

The Guild was more fortunate than many others unions in that period 312  
because we had seasoned labor reporters to advise us. Men like Joe Loftus 313  
and A. H. Raskin of the New York Times. We were able even in our first 314  
constitutions to avoid some of the mistakes which had been made by older 315  
unions. The attempt by left-wingers to establish minority control of 316  
the union by requiring 2/3 vote to rule was easily defeated in favor of ~~the~~ 317  
majority rule which prevails today. This made it difficult for our 318  
administrative officers to become "business agents" with dictatorial 319  
powers. *The constitution* ~~It~~ made it impossible for the international executive board to 320  
appoint administrators to take over dissident locals. Most important of 321  
all, we wrote into our constitution a clause protecting ~~Westbrook Pegler~~ *the right of* 322  
or anyone else ~~who tried~~ to criticize or denounce the Guild, *in anything* 323  
*written for publication.*  
Few if any charges of interfering with the freedom of the press have 324  
ever been leveled against the Guild or any of its locals. 325