

ROOSEVELT REPLIES TO LABOR ATTACKS

**Declares That He Was Right in
Denouncing Moyer and
Haywood.**

A SQUARE DEAL DEFINED

**Union Men Sharply Criticised for Try-
ing to Influence the Course of
Justice in These Cases.**

WASHINGTON, April 23.—In a letter addressed to Honoré Jaxon of Chicago, Chairman of the "Cook County Moyer-Haywood Conference," made public to-day, President Roosevelt replied to the criticisms by labor unions of his letter to Representative Sherman in which he referred to Moyer and Haywood, officials of the Western Federation of Miners, charged with implication in the murder of ex-Gov. Steunenberg of Idaho, as "undesirable citizens."

Mr. Roosevelt's reference was made to a conversation which Representative Sherman had with E. H. Harriman, in which the latter is alleged to have said that whenever he wanted legislation from a State Legislature he could buy it; that he could buy Congress, and that, if necessary, he could buy the judiciary. The President's comment was:

This was doubtless said partly in boastful cynicism and partly in a mere burst of bad temper because of his objection to the Interstate Commerce law and to my actions as President. But it shows a cynicism and deep-seated corruption which the man uttering such sentiments and boasting, no matter how falsely, of his powers to perform such crimes, at least an undesirable a citizen as Debs, or Moyer, or Haywood.

Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Mr. Jaxon reads:

"April 22, 1907.

"Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 19th inst., in which you inclose the draft of the formal letter which is to follow. I have been notified that several delegations bearing similar requests are on the way hither. In the letter you, on behalf of the Cook County Moyer-Haywood conference, protest against certain language I used in a recent letter which you assert to be designed to influence the course of justice in the case of the trial for murder of Messrs. Moyer and Haywood.

Regrets Action of Labor Men.

"I entirely agree with you that it is improper to endeavor to influence the course of justice, whether by threats or in any similar manner. For this reason I have regretted most deeply the action of such organizations as your own in undertaking to accomplish this very result in the very case of which you speak. For instance, your letter is headed: 'Cook County Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone Conference,' with the headlines 'Death Cannot, Will Not, and Shall Not Claim Our Brothers.'

"This shows that you and your associates are not demanding a fair trial, or working for a fair trial, but are announcing in advance that the verdict shall only be one way, and that you will not tolerate any other verdict. Such action is flagrant in its impropriety, and I join heartily in condemning it.

"But it is a simple absurdity to suppose that because any man is on trial for a given offense he is therefore to be freed from all criticisms upon his general conduct and manner of life. In my letter to which you object, I referred to a certain prominent financier, Mr. Harriman, on the one hand, and to Messrs. Moyer, Haywood, and Debs on the other as being equally undesirable citizens. It is as foolish to assert that this was designed to influence the trial of Moyer and Haywood as to assert that it was designed to influence the suits that have been brought against Mr. Harriman. I neither expressed nor indicated any opinion as to whether Messrs. Moyer and Haywood were guilty of the murder of Gov. Steunenberg. If they are guilty they certainly ought to be punished. If they are not guilty they certainly ought not to be punished.

Incitements to Violence.

"But no possible outcome either of the trial or the suits can affect my judgment as to the undesirability of the type of citizenship of those whom I mentioned. Messrs. Moyer, Haywood, and Debs stand as representatives of those men who have done as much to discredit the labor movement as the worst speculative financiers or most unscrupulous employers of labor and debauchers of Legislatures have done to discredit honest capitalists and fair-dealing business men.

"They stand as the representatives of these men, who by their public utterances and manifestoes, by the utterances of the papers they control or inspire, and by the words and deeds of those associated with or subordinated to them, habitually appear as guilty of incitement to or apology for bloodshed and violence.

"If this does not constitute undesirable citizenship, then there can never be any undesirable citizens. The men whom I denounce represent the men who have abandoned that legitimate movement for the uplifting of labor with which I have the most hearty sympathy; they have adopted practices which cut them off from those who lead this legitimate movement. In every way I shall support the law-abiding and upright representatives of labor, and in no way can I better support them than by drawing the sharpest possible line between them on the one hand and, on the other hand, those preachers of violence who are themselves the worst foes of the honest laboring man.

"Let me repeat my deep regret that any body of men should so far forget their duty to their country as to endeavor by the formulation of societies and in other ways to influence the course of justice in this matter. I have received many such letters as yours. Accompanying them were newspaper clippings announcing demonstrations, parades, and mass meetings designed to show that the representatives of labor, without regard to the facts, demand the acquittal of Messrs. Haywood and Moyer. Such meetings can, of course, be designed only to coerce court or jury in rendering a verdict, and they therefore deserve all the condemnation which you in your letters say should be awarded to those who endeavor improperly to influence the course of justice.

Challenges Support of Public.

"You would of course be entirely within your rights if you merely announced that you thought Messrs. Moyer and Haywood were 'desirable citizens,' though in such

case I should take frank issue with you and should say that, wholly without regard to whether or not they are guilty of the crime for which they are now being tried, they represent as thoroughly undesirable a type of citizenship as can be found in this country; a type which, in the letter to which you so unreasonably take exception, I showed not to be confined to any one class, but to exist among some representatives of great capitalists as well as among some representatives of wage workers.

"In that letter I condemned both types. Certain representatives of the great capitalists in turn condemned me for including Mr. Harriman in my condemnation of Messrs. Moyer and Haywood. Certain of the representatives of labor in their turn condemned me because I included Messrs. Moyer and Haywood as undesirable citizens, together with Mr. Harriman.

"I am as profoundly indifferent to the condemnation in one case as in the other. I challenge as a right the support of all good Americans, whether wage earners or capitalists, whatever their occupation or creed, or in whatever portion of the country they live, when I condemn both the types of bad citizenship which I have held up to reprobation. It seems to me a mark of utter insincerity to fall thus to condemn both, and to apologize for either robs the man thus apologizing of all right to condemn any wrongdoing in any man, rich or poor, in public or in private life.

Meaning of a Square Deal.

"You say you ask for a 'square deal' for Messrs. Moyer and Haywood. So do I. When I say 'square deal' I mean a square deal to every one; it is equally a violation of the policy of the square deal for a capitalist to protest against denunciation of a capitalist who is guilty of wrongdoing and for a labor leader to protest against the denunciation of a labor leader who has been guilty of wrongdoing. I stand for equal justice to both, and so far as in my power lies I shall uphold justice whether the man accused of guilt has behind him the wealthiest corporations, the greatest aggregations of riches in the country, or whether he has behind him the most influential labor organization in the country. Very truly yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
"Mr. Honore Jaxon, Chairman, 667 West Lake Street, Chicago, Ill."