



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

Abraham Lincoln

The following excerpts come from Local 201's newspaper, February 1938, seventy years ago, written by our first Business Agent, Al Coulthard:

The anniversary of the birth of the undoubtedly great Lincoln is February 12th. Public men in all lines of thought will pay tribute to Lincoln's memory...a man born of the soil, reared near the soil, and permeated with an altruistic philosophy which never wavered until death.

Very few who will laud Lincoln's greatness on this anniversary, will quote those passages from the lips and pen of the great emancipator that will show up the reactionary philosophy of most of our public men today; together with the public (privately owned) press.

Lincoln was of the people, not of the interests who molded and controlled people's lives...

In 1847, from the floor of Congress Abe said:

"IF WE EXCEPT THE LIGHT AND AIR OF HEAVEN, NO GOOD THING HAS BEEN OR CAN BE ENJOYED BY US WITHOUT HAVING FIRST COST LABOR. AND INASMUCH AS MOST GOOD THINGS ARE PRODUCED BY LABOR, IT FOLLOWS THAT ALL SUCH THINGS OF RIGHT BELONG TO THOSE WHOSE LABOR HAS PRODUCED THEM. BUT IT HAS SO HAPPENED, IN ALL AGES OF THE WORLD, THAT SOME HAVE LABORED, AND OTHERS HAVE, WITHOUT LABOR, ENJOYED A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE FRUITS. THIS IS WRONG AND SHOULD NOT CONTINUE. TO SECURE TO EACH LABORER THE WHOLE PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR, OR AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE, IS A WORTHY OBJECT OF ANY GOOD GOVERNMENT"....

In his inaugural address in 1861:

"THIS COUNTRY WITH ITS INSTITUTIONS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT IT. WHENEVER THEY SHOULD GROW WEARY OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT, THEY CAN EXERCISE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF AMENDING, OR THEIR REVOLUTIONARY RIGHT TO DISMEMBER OR OVERTHROW IT"...

From a speech in 1864:

"THE SHEPHERD DRIVES THE WOLF FROM THE SHEEP'S THROAT, FOR WHICH THE SHEEP THANKS THE SHEPHERD AS HIS LIBERATOR, WHILE THE WOLF DENOUNCES HIM FOR THE SAME ACT AS THE DESTROYER OF LIBERTY"...

On the masthead of Local 201's Electrical Union News 1933 - 1950:

"CAPITAL IS ONLY THE FRUIT OF LABOR, AND COULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED IF LABOR HAD NOT EXISTED FIRST. LABOR IS THE SUPERIOR OF CAPITAL, AND DESERVES THE MUCH HIGHER CONSIDERATION"

- Abraham Lincoln

