

A "MAIN STREET REVOLT" SCARES CONGRESSMEN WORRYING ABOUT 1938 RE-ELECTION



Congressman Sam Pettengill of Indiana is a Democrat who says: "I am for all of the New Deal that is constitutional and Jeffersonian, and which the nation can pay for."

Great American Industries
NAPPANEE LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY
 DISTINCTIVE FURNITURE
 NAPPANEE, INDIANA
 U.S.A.
 November 11, 1937

Honorable Samuel H. Pettengill, U.S.C.
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pettengill:

It has not been often that I have written you but at the present time I feel that a few words from one who has been one of the leaders in the Democratic party in this section will not come amiss.

It seems to me that the present session of congress has a big job on their hands if they are to meet legislation which will be beneficial to the country and if they are to avoid legislation which has proven to be detrimental to our progress.

I am not ungrateful of the many good things and necessary things which already have been done to stimulate business. On the other hand is the sequence of some of the Democrats to change the whole system, some legislation has been passed which is very detrimental to business. Some of this legislation affects big business and some of it affects small business. What I am interested in is the legislation which has adversely affected small business.

Thanking you for your indulgence in bearing this report and assuring you that unless something is done to restore true Democratic principles the Democratic party will weaken to find that many of the influential Democrats who have carried the load and burden of the day no longer active. I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,
Walter C. Uline
 Walter C. Uline

This letter from a worried constituent was waiting for Representative Pettengill when he got back to Washington. It says what most Congressmen are hearing from back home.



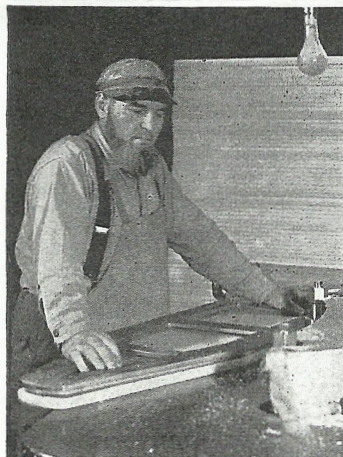
Constituent Walter C. Uline, who wrote Pettengill the letter, is a small manufacturer and former Democratic mayor of Nappanee, Ind. (pop. 2,950), 20 miles from South Bend.



Main Street in Nappanee, Ind. looks and thinks and acts like Main Street in thousands of other American small towns. In the Nappanees of America there is stirring what

political reporters have begun to call a "Main Street Revolt." It comes from hard-pressed small businessmen like Mr. Uline, and their wives who are vexed by high prices.

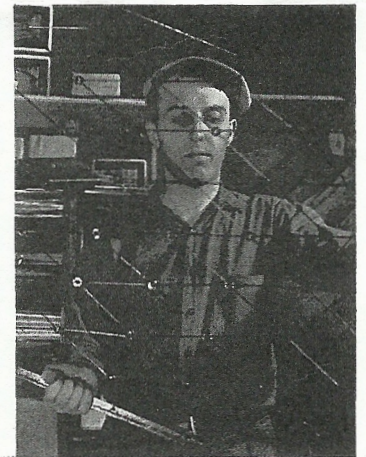
These constituents are alarmed by New Deal direction but not yet definitely anti-Roosevelt. Their Congressmen, up for re-election next year, don't know which way to jump.



Ira Chupp, a shaper operator, is one of the six Amishmen among Mr. Uline's 69 factory hands. He gets 88¢ an hour, which is just about the average.



The Uline factory consists of ten little red buildings strung along the railroad tracks, with a single siding. Mr. Uline made \$55,000 in 1928, lost money every year during Depression, hopes to make about \$2,500 this year.



"Tobie" Tobias, a baby-bed assembler, is plant Labor boss. Mr. Uline fears that demands of the recently-organized union will wreck his business.



Small business

Mr. Uline's chief product is nursery furniture, like the article being spraypainted in his plant (above). People who associate "corporation" with bigness forget that two-thirds of the corporations in America net less than \$5,000 per year. It was about the prosperity of small businessmen that President

Roosevelt professed most concern in his message to Congress. Anxious Mr. Uline, a lifelong Democrat who voted for Roosevelt in 1932 and 1936, is beginning to wonder if he voted right. But he still has a picture of the President on his office wall. Said he Nov. 17: "I will leave it there a while longer."