

COPY

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

801-809 G Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

June 30, 1916.

Mr. O. E. Asbridge, Secretary,

Local Union No. 19,  
United Association of Plumbers and Steam  
Fitters of United States and Canada,

Box 201, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In response to your request of June 21 for the legislative record of Honorable George Sutherland, United States Senator from Utah, on measures of interest to Labor which have come before the United States Senate during his membership therein, I take pleasure in saying that Senator Sutherland has been, not only sympathetic, but very helpful in the passage of many measure through the United States Senate which the organizations of Labor have urged for enactment, such as the railroad men's Hours of Service Law; the Employers' Liability Law; the popular election of United States Senators; legislation in behalf of children; the right of petition; the literacy test contained in the Immigration Bills; Eight Hour legislation and Industrial Education and Vocational Trade Training measures.

He has vigorously opposed the speeding up schemes, known as the "Taylor System" in Government establishments, and in behalf of the miners in their notable contests in West Virginia, Colorado, and Michigan, Senator Sutherland vigorously championed Federal investigations during those controversies and was otherwise helpful in obtaining the restoration of civil rights

for the oppressed mine workers in the states mentioned.

Senator Sutherland particularly distinguished himself as Chairman of the Federal Commission on Workmen's Compensation.

During the historic contest in the United States Senate on the Seamen's bill by Senator LaFollette, Senator Sutherland rendered exceptional service in behalf of that great measure which restored liberty to the seamen and improved their working conditions and assured safety to the traveling public. That great measure was also urged by Labor and championed by your Senator.

He is one of the members of the United States Senate whom we always feel free to approach and solicit his assistance on matters proposed that will redound to the welfare of all the people.

Trusting that the information contained in this letter will be of service to you and with kind regards and best wishes I remain

Fraternally yours

(Signed) Samuel Gompers,

President

American Federation of Labor



## SUTHERLAND (Cont'd)

DATE	MEASURE	VOTE	LABOR'S ATTITUDE	REMARKS
5/15/14	: Convict Made Goods Bill, Motion : to table motion to reconsider : vote by which bills was advanced	: Yea	: Favored	
7/7/14	: Industrial Relations Commission, : Amendment decreasing amount of : appropriation for	: Nay	: Opposed	
7/8/14	: Motion to table motion to : strike amendment relating to : use of funds for prosecution of : unions under Sherman Law	: Nay	: Favored	
9/2/14	: Clayton Anti-Trust Act, vital : to labor organizations	: Not voting	: Favored	
10/5/14	: Conference report on Clayton : Anti-Trust Act	: Not voting	: Favored	
12/31/14	: Literacy Test, motion to strike : from Immigration Bill	: Nay	: Opposed	
1/2/15	: Immigration Restriction Bill	: Not voting	: Favored	
2/23/15	: Stop-watch and time measuring : devices, amendment prohibiting : them in U. S. Navy Yards	: Not voting	: Favored	: Absent on account of illness
2/23/15	: Bonus system, motion to strike : provision prohibiting same in : Navy Yards	: Not voting	: Opposed	: Absent on account of illness.
2/27/15	: Seamen's Act, motion to table : motion to reconsider passage : of law	: Not voting	: Favored	: Absent on account of illness.
5/30/16	: "Taylor System", motion to : table motion to strike amend- : ment in Fortifications Bill : prohibiting system in US plants	: Not voting	: Favored	

In addition to voting on important roll calls as above indicated, Senator Sutherland has rendered assistance to measures favored by labor by speech on the floor and in the committees in many instances.

He spoke in favor of the amendment of 1910 to the Employers' Liability Law, and proposed an amendment to the Alaska Railroad Bill to provide for the employees who might be injured in the work for the government; was joint author of the constitutional amendment providing for the election of Senators by direct vote; urged the passage of the bill creating the Children's Bureau; spoke for the Eight Hour Law; favored a full investigation of the Miners' Strike in West Virginia, and vigorously denounced the denial of justice to the workmen; defended the Commission on Industrial Relations and favored an adequate appropriation for that body; spoke in favor of creating the Bureau of Mines and additional mine safety stations; defended the constitutionality of the child labor bill; and secured the adoption of a resolution accepting the invitation from foreign countries

that the United States participate in the Congress on Social Insurance.

Senator Sutherland has been opposed to the exemption of labor unions from the Anti-trust laws, and spoke against amendments to appropriation bills looking to that end.

He was Chairman of the Federal Commission on Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation, and has championed the workmen's compensation bill affecting the employees of interstate railroads and express companies. He also spoke in favor of extending the compensation act for government employees to the forestry service and the bureau of mines, and has secured a favorable report on his bill providing compensation for injuries to all civil employees of the United States, the report stating that the measure is as generous in amounts as any of the existing laws in the United States or foreign countries.

He was exceptionally active in behalf of the Seamen's Bill which liberated seamen from a condition closely akin to slavery and improved their working conditions and assured greater safety to the traveling public. He assisted in drafting that great measure, and defended it on the floor of the Senate.

The foregoing is a copy of the voting record and summary of activities of Senator Sutherland on matters relating to labor, as they are compiled from the Congressional Records and kept in this office.

*H. Ervill*

A. G. C. E., &  
National Legislative Representative,  
B. of L. E.

*P. J. McNamara*

Vice-President,  
National Legislative Representative,  
B. of L. F. & E.

*W. M. ...*

Vice-President,  
National Legislative Representative,  
O. R. C.

*Val Fitzpatrick*

Vice-President,  
National Legislative Representative,  
B. of R. T.