

CONTROL OF PRESS BY WALL ST.'S INVISIBLE HAND TOLD OF BY CONGRESSMAN TO P. O. L.

How newspapers, especially some Chicago papers, distort truth, misstate facts or lie directly in order to hoodwink the people and injure those who try to curb the greed of the special privileges which the papers represent was told by Congressman Frank Buchanan at the meeting of the Public Ownership League of Cook county Sunday.

The methods of newspapers whose souls have been sold with their advertising columns was laid bare by the congressman. He told how the newspapers warped the truth in Washington news when an issue of vital interest to the public is at stake. He referred in special way to the campaign for military preparedness and the railroad eight-hour-day bill to point out specific instances of practically all the papers in the country distorting facts to create a false public impression. He asked why the newspapers did this and answered himself:

"The business office of the newspapers demand distortion of facts in order better to serve the will of the advertisers.

"Newspapers are to day printing big headlined stories of war and the need of preparedness to blind you from seeing contemplated steals," said Buchanan. "Continually they cry for a heavily-armed preparedness, for a big navy—to the benefit of the steel interests. Take the profits out of war by public ownership of munitions factories and the cry for a great preparedness will cease.

"Newspapers have given the mistaken impression to many that the railroad brotherhoods held up congress in their demand for an eight-hour day. The truth is rather that congress held up the brotherhoods by interfering in a well-planned course of action.

"The newspapers tell only one side of a story—the side that benefits

them or the interests upon whom they depend for much of their revenue. They printed all sorts of stories to put the railroad brotherhoods in a bad light in their fight for an 8-hour day, but say nothing of the roads watering stock and issuing counterfeit capital.

"Editors are simply advertising agents who write to secure for their papers the crumbs which big business interests will permit them to have through allotment of advertising. They must take orders.

"Newspapers are serving the people's enemies and the only way to stop them is to stop reading such papers.

"If the big Chicago newspapers, such as the Tribune, for instance, said anything nice about me I would begin to lose confidence in myself."

Every investigation has proven that the government can manufacture or manage anything 20 to 60 per cent more cheaply than can private concerns.

The P. O. L. voted unanimously to continue the fight to make the Automatic Telephoie a city institution with the ultimate object of enlarging or securing penny-a-call phone service for every home in Chicago.

In discussion of the Automatic phone situation, Morton L. Johnson, who occupied the chair, referred to Walter L. Fisher, special attorney for the mayor in the phone deal, as "a man who worked for the people with the object of working the people."

Support of league members in a fight to defeat Jimmy Bowler, Democratic candidate for coroner, and Charles "Cull" Martin, Democratic candidate for congressman, was urged by Charles Dold, sec'y of the league.

"We must show that organized labor can and will defeat the opponents of organized labor," said Dold.

Bowler and Martin voted in city