

THIS WEEK IN LABOR HISTORY

May 15

Death of IWW song writer T-Bone Slim, New York City - 1942

May 16

Minneapolis general strike backs Teamsters - 1934

U.S. Supreme Court issues Mackay decision, which permits the permanent replacement of striking workers. The decision had little impact until Ronald Regan's replacement of striking air traffic controllers (PATCO) in 1981, a move that signalled antiunion private sector employers that it was OK to do likewise - 1938

May 17

First women's anti-slavery conference, Philadelphia - 1838

Supreme Court outlaws segregation in public schools - 1954

May 19

Shootout in Matewan, W. Va. between striking union miners (led by Police Chief Sid Hatfield) and coal company agents (Baldwin-Felts) - 1920

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, formed by the Congress of Industrial Organizations, formally becomes the United Steelworkers of America - 1942

May 20

The Railway Labor Act took effect today. It was the first federal legislation to protect workers' rights to form unions - 1926

Source: Union Communication Services, Inc.