

Hundreds at Labor Temple for Memorial Services

More than 250 friends of Malcolm E. "Mac" McLaren filled the large auditorium at the Labor Temple on Thursday, July 14, 1977 to pay final tribute to the man who spent more than a half of century fighting the battles of the working people. At times, during the half-hour long ceremony, there wasn't a dry eye in the Hall as the union officials said their last, public goodby to their brother. The commentators were:

Pete Olson, Pres., IUOE #609, School Custodians
Joe Davis, Pres., Washington State Labor Council
Grant Wood, Retired B.A., Plbrs. & Fitters #32,
Lauren "Yogi" Bair, Int'l Union Op. Engrs. #286. James
K. Bender, Ex-Sec. KCLC.

Olson told the crowd, "Mac knew no color barriers — it made no difference to him if you were white, red, brown or black — if you were a working man, you were his friend." Davis said, "He was consistent and persistent — but he represented his members first, last and always."

Wood told the audience, "There was a man you could look up to with a great deal of reverence — we have a lot to be thankful for that Mac was a member of organized labor." Bair said, "Thousands of people have gained their pensions because of Mac's efforts...he worked for all labor organizations."

The farewell party planned for Mac on the Monday before the Memorial Service was mentioned by Bender who said,

"A few days ago, we were all planning to gather at the Edgewater Inn and pay tribute to Mac McLaren. Many people would have gotten up at the Edgewater, with Mac Looking on, and all these people would have said great and wonderful things about Mac. And that would have been nice, because Mac loved poetry and he probably knew these words better than I... "Why should good words never be said, of a friend till he is dead?" Mac would know that poem and would have appreciated hearing those "good words" from his friends. But, now, Mac is dead. He won't hear our words, and we all feel sorry that he won't. But what we would have said last Monday at the Edgewater...and what we say now, could not and can not ever come close to matching what he DID for the labor movement and for his friends.

There's an old proverb, which I'm sure Mac Knew. 'Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names.' We will always remember the name of Mac McLaren."