AP American Mrs. Scherer

Unit 7: Labor Unions in Progressive Era

1. The Lochner Era – Anti-Union Supreme Court Decisions
2. Lochner v. New York 1905 – declared unconstitutional a law that limited work hours for bakers citing “liberty of contract”.
3. Significance of the “Lochner Era”:
4. Lowe vs. Laylor 1908
5. *Workers organized a boycott of Lowe a hat manufacturer who created an open shop.*
6. Supreme Court ruled that the boycott restrained the Lowe Company’s ability to trade and commerce.
7. Significance:
8. Coppage vs. Kansas 1915
9. *Coppage, an employer, forbade his workers from joining unions by forcing them to sign “yellow dog contract”, thus violating a Kansas law that prohibited this type of anti-union activity*.
10. Supreme Court declared Kansas law unconstitutional
11. Impact:
12. Government Passes Pro-Labor Legislation
13. Clayton Anti-Trust Act – “magna carta of labor” – unions are not monopolies

B. Department of Labor 1913 – advocates for workers at the federal level

C. Adamson Act 1916 – 8 hour day, paid overtime, for interstate railroad workers.

D. Norris-LaGuardia Anti Injunction Act 1932 – outlawed anti-union contracts and use of injunctions against strikes

E. National Labor Relations Act 1935 – collective bargaining

F. Social Security Act 1935 – pensions, care for dependents

G. Fair Labor Standards Act 1938 – minimum wage

H. Taft-Hartley Act 1947 – anti-union law banned “closed shop”, forced union workers to take “anti-communist” oath.