

# Lamb Had Varied, Colorful Career From Labor Attorney To Industrialist

Edward Lamb, Toledo industrialist, attorney, philanthropist, and author, died today in his home. He was 85.

Mr. Lamb, of East Broadway, Maumee, also known as Ted, was chairman of the board of Great Lakes Communications, Inc., which is owned by him and his family.

Mr. Lamb's remaining business interests included a television station he founded in Erie, Pa. He also formerly owned television stations in Cheyenne Wyo.; Scottsbluff, Neb., and Sterling, Colo. At one time, he was publisher of a newspaper in Erie and owner of several radio stations.

He started his long, colorful, and varied career in the late 1920 after graduation from Case Western Reserve University school of law in Cleveland. Mr. Lamb soon distinguished himself as a labor attorney. He took an interest in the struggling unions of the American Federation of Labor and handled many labor cases in addition to his corporate practice.

He became known in the 1940s for winning the "Portal-to Portal" pay decision before the United States Supreme Court in 1946. That decision grew out of court challenge Mr. Lamb filed in 1941 on behalf of the workers of the Mount Clemens, Mich., Pottery Co., who had been instructed to report to work 14 minutes before their official starting time without compensation.

Prior to that, Mr. Lamb had a brief, but unsuccessful, campaign for the Republican nomination to the U.S. Senate in 1934, and as a Democratic candidate for state attorney general in 1936. He was an assistant city law director in the late 1920s.

Mr. Lamb conducted most of his business from the Edward Lamb Building at Madison and St. Clair Street downtown. The landmark five-story building was razed in 1985.

An aggressive businessman, Mr. Lamb also gained notoriety in the 1960s when he made a surprise offer

for tenders to purchase a block of Seiberling Rubber Co. stock in an effort to gain control of the Akron tire-manufacturing firm.

After losing a proxy fight for the firm in 1956, he had begun accumulating Seiberling stock until he controlled four seats on its 15-man board of directors. By 1964, he was chairman of the board and owned a majority of the 634,393 shares of common stock.

In 1965, Seiberling Rubber reorganized as Seilon, Inc., and its stockholders approved the sale of the firm's tire division to Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.

Earlier, in 1952, Mr. Lamb bought controlling shares of stock in Air-Way Electric Appliance Corp., of Toledo, a major manufacturer and house-to-house seller of vacuum cleaners. His plan was to take control of the firm, but he was denied representation on the board of directors and the Air-Way firm attempted to merge with Firth Carpet.

Mr. Lamb succeeded in blocking the merger and three years later he owned more than 51 per cent of the outstanding stock. The Air-Way firm later merged with Lamb Industries, a manufacturer of gas and electric water heaters.

By 1962, when Mr. Lamb became chairman of Seiberling, he was in control of a far-flung empire that included industrial concerns producing wire cable doors, plumbing fixtures, and 90 per cent of the world's sugar harvesting equipment. Still later, he would add a shopping center to his real estate holdings.

In recent years he dismantled much of his industrial empire.

He also found himself in hundred of lawsuits over the year — both as an instigator and a victim — including a \$65 million suit against The Blade, which charged that the newspaper and two other firms violated anti-trust laws when they established Buckeye Cablevision. Mr. Lamb lost that suit.

Mr. Lamb was an advocate of scientific management for American business. He campaigned for

international trade among all nations regardless of their social systems and was a vigorous supporter of the United Nations.

During the 1060s, he lectured at leading business schools on management techniques. In the early 1960s, the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University began awarding the Edward Lamb Fellowship for Advanced Study in Business Excellence, of which George Romney was the first recipient.

In a 1964 speech in Ontario, he called for the economic and political merger of Canada and the United States in a "united community of North America."

The same year, he called for U.S.-sponsored admission of Red China to the United Nations.

An open admirer of Fidel Castro, Mr. Lamb had made trips to Cuba to interview the Cuban premier and talk with government leaders. On one trip in 1969, he was a witness to an assassination attempt against Castro.

He also was a frequent visitor to the Soviet Union, where, in 1964 he addressed members of the Moscow Economic Council to tell them how capitalist enterprises in the U.S. managed their affairs.

In July, 1980, a Soviet television crew filmed Mr. Lamb in his home and office here for a 45-minute documentary on his views on trade, political alliances, and the arms race.

Although he shunned labels, Mr. Lamb once said that if he were to accept one, it possibly would be that of a humanist.

He was a signer of Humanist Manifesto II, a document drafted in 1973 as a supplement to Humanist Manifesto I.

The earlier document defines the philosophical and religious principles of humanism, while the later one also addresses the issues of civil liberties, equality, democracy, survival of humankind, world economic growth, population and ecological control, war and peace, and the building of a world community.

Among the 113 persons who, with Mr. Lamb, first signed their names to the Humanist Manifesto II were Isaac Asimov; Alan Guttmacher, former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; B.F. Skinner, and Andrei Sakharov. Later signers included Betty Friedan.

In his latest book, "The Sharing Society," published in 1979, Mr. Lamb advocated a world community and predicted that uncontrolled, unplanned nations with extremes of wealth and poverty could not exist much longer.

His other books include his autobiography, "No Lamb for Slaughter," "Planned Economy of Soviet Russia," and "Trial by Battle."

He was a long-time supporter of the Metroparks District of the Toledo Area and last November a shelterhouse in Side Cut Metropark was dedicated the "Edward and Prudence Lamb Heritage Center." In 1961, he funded free outdoor band concerts at the Toledo Zoo, and in 1977 presented a rare, 16th-century printed copy of England's Magna Carta to the University of Toledo Carlson Library.

A close personal friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Mr. Lamb supported the civil rights leader many years and was a director of the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta.

Mr. Lamb held honorary degrees from Wilberforce University and from Gannon College, Erie, Pa., and Dartmouth College.

He was a collector of fine art and autographs of famous people.

Mr. Lamb was born in Toledo the second youngest of 10 children. He was graduated of Waite High School where he was president of his senior class. He also graduated from Dartmouth and attended Yale and Harvard universities before going on to law school.

In 1969, he was named chairman of the former John XXIII International Institute, an ecumenical agency formed to combat racism and poverty and promote world peace.

A member of various organizations supporting the United Nations, Mr. Lamb also was a trustee and member of the board of governors of the United Nations Association — U.S.A.

Surviving are his wife, Prudence; daughter, Mrs. Priscilla Lamb Schwier; son, Edward Hutchinson Lamb, and five grandchildren.