Maurice Sugar
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For Ernest Goodman and in memory of my mother, Janice Thompson
Other names crowd memory; I must stop playing favorites. But not before reverting to Maurice Sugar. "Maurice Sugar really was Mr. CIO in Michigan," Carl Haessler wrote me. "Any story of CIO without Sugar is incomplete." Agreed—except that Sugar's influence radiated much further. We felt it in Washington. On this trip I found it still widely felt in CIO though, under the victorious Walter Reuther, Sugar was no longer UAW general counsel. Whatever brains conceived CIO, it was born in the labor struggles of the workers—notably those in Auto, for whom Sugar was counsel and advocate from the first. Attorney for unions since 1914, Sugar stood high in labor and progressive circles from long before CIO. His service to UAW capped a career marked by both legal talent and a deeply principled and philosophical attachment to the labor movement.

—Len DeCaux
THE HEMLOCK
To Maurice Sugar

High above the swamp, rugged, noble,
It stands aloof, limbs outstretched meeting
The sun and the wind head-on, proof to
Cedar, pine and tamarack below
That roots sunk down deep will brace a tree
To overcome burn, the ice storm's woe;
The fungal growth, rust and density.

Its rings mark off each wedding to a year,
Concentric configurations of
Pride and joy and accomplishment.
Its limbs dance pavanes for the dark,
Its needles sing songs to the wind,
It drops its cones and it sheds its bark,
Incendiary fuel for all of mankind.

—M. Furay