

Thoughts On Labor Day

Sometimes in one of our disgruntled frames of mind, we may be inclined to think of work as sort of a necessary evil, but we soon realize that work is as much a privilege as a necessity. Illness or any other cause which prevents us from working, teaches us how wonderful it is to be active. Without work, life becomes dull. Without work, our standard of living slips and we miss the comforts to which we have become accustomed.

Work to one man can be an exciting adventure yet to another it can be dull and uninteresting. The man who awakes early in the morning eager to get on the job will have a good day; the man who drags himself off to work expecting that everything will go wrong probably will not be disappointed.

At times all jobs become routine and when that situation occurs, it is time to interest yourself in the work processes that precede yours and study the part your company is playing in the community and in the nation.

On this Labor Day look about you. Note how well things go when we work as a team. For Labor Day is a great day conceived in a nation where a man accepts a job and is not commanded to do one . . . where any man by dint of hard work can reach new heights and where every man creates his own future.

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Life Around The World

In a recent survey, a study was made of the same jobs in different countries around the world. How these people live, the employment conditions under which they work and other points were covered.

The American who was chosen as the typical worker in the occupation that was chosen had a nice six-room house with a garden. His wife's kitchen had an electric stove, refrigerator, and other modern appliances. The couple had some war bonds, a savings account, and insurance policies with a face value of several thousand dollars.

Taking a quick trip around the rest of the world, here is what we see:

Yang-Yung Hai of China gets \$.09 an hour, works 75 hours a week, and lives in one room with his wife and two children.

Gregario Sousa Landin of Mexico makes \$14 a week while his 13-year-old son brings in \$.75 a day as an apprentice.

Dattraya Ranchandra of India, with his wife, lives in a 9x8 third floor room, gets \$.11 an hour for his labor.

The picture is not as dark in all countries. Raymond Day's Canadian family lives in a five room house and does very well on his \$.82 an hour. Knut Evert Carlson's Swedish household also does well on his weekly pay check.

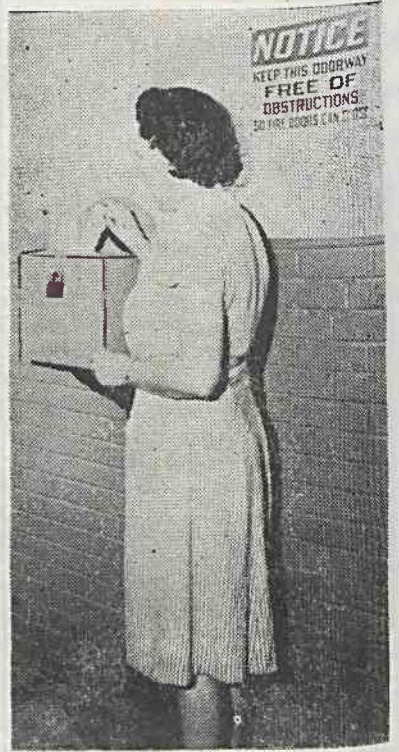
This much is clear to all of us:

"Because we, as Americans, produce more in each hour's work, we can buy more with our pay for that hour. It is high output at low cost—not planned economy, not subsidized scarcity—that creates wealth. Only in efficient production and distribution lies the hope of free people who want to enjoy free living with comfort, with leisure, even with luxury."

Do You Have A Suggestion?

Suggestions need not necessarily be revolutionary; many times a minor suggestion or improvement might be just as important as a major one in the long run. After all, it's the cumulation of the small improvements that makes for smoother operation of the plant and gives us a more pleasant place in which to work.

Recently the suggestion boxes were repaired, repainted, and in some instances relocated so they would be more convenient. If you have a suggestion, whether it be in the major or minor classification, just write it out and drop it in the suggestion box most convenient for you. Suggestions may be signed or unsigned and you can be assured that every one of them will be given prompt and careful consideration.



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Too Crowded

Maybe it's the ball game or that date that's on your mind. Maybe some friends are coming over tonight and you're thinking about that. Or perhaps you've got to hurry to town this afternoon and make that purchase you forgot the other day. These and other similar thoughts have a sneaking way of crowding themselves into our head during working hours until many times, the question might be raised as to which occupies more of our thinking capacity—our job or outside activities.

A person who allows off-the-job activities to hamper his work is not being fair to himself or his company. When our thoughts drift too far from our work, that's when an accident is most likely to happen or bad work slips through or a mistake gets by that causes trouble later. To turn in our best performance, the best plan is to see that our thoughts are devoted principally to the job at hand.

AN EVERYDAY ASSET

Courtesy is an asset you will need all your life. It isn't the casual politeness we all use. It is something deeper and finer which gives life and meaning to that politeness. Courtesy is more than words—it colors everything you say and do.

It shows in a happy, cheerful expression as you do kindly, friendly things for each other. It is in the way you say and do the ordinary everyday things of life. It is reflected in the expression of your eyes, shines in your smile, and gives your manner and words a charm and graciousness that promises friendship, popularity, and success.

People judge you by what you say and do, and courtesy makes that judgment a favorable one, so it is worth while to develop it now. Check up on the successful people in your town, on the social leaders, on the men and women in high places in every line, and you will find they all have this asset of courtesy. It is an important part of their success equipment and without it they would never have reached the top.

Is courtesy one of YOUR assets? If not, begin to cultivate it today for you are going to need it all through life.

The Echo

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