

# Babson Urges Voluntary Mediation For Industry

BY ROGER W. BABSON.  
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Babson Park, Fla., Feb. 27.—Having served in Washington as assistant secretary of labor during World War I and later as director-general of information and education, many letters are coming to me asking as to what can be done to prevent strikes. I am replying, "Nothing can prevent strikes, but Congress can do something to make them less serious." Upon referring to certain notes which I made at the close of World War I, I find the following conclusions. They are 100 percent equally true today at the close of World War II.

**Compulsory Arbitration.**  
Compulsory arbitration, except in the case of railroads, public utilities and other monopolistic enterprises, is both impractical and unjust. To talk compulsory arbitration for competitive industry is foolish. It, however, is practical in the case of non-competitive and monopolistic enterprises. Honest collective bargaining should be encouraged in all cases; but it must be on the basis of supply and demand for labor in a free and unobstructed market. But even this leads to a discussion of the justice of arbitrators and whether we can have truly "free enterprise" along with the interference of property.

Voluntary mediation boards should be established and their decisions enforced. These boards should consist of three prominent men all of whom have the public's respect and respect by the unions, one by the employers, and one by the government. These men should be given sufficient funds to secure all necessary information within a reasonable time and both sides should agree in advance to accept their decisions as final. It may be possible to have union-employer agreements for cooling off periods during the limited time that these mediation boards are reaching a decision.

**Rules Should Apply To All.**  
Both corporation and union should equally be subject to the same government laws and the same government laws which have come to be considered as standard practice.

Letters are coming to my asking if the corporations have as good leadership as the big unions. Many investors feel that too many corporation officials have inherited their jobs, while most union leaders have fought their way to the top through sheer ability. These investors would not object to paying large salaries to the heads of their companies provided they have the needed ability. Too many stockholders now seem to be losing faith in the ability of these company officials whom they mechanically reelect every year by blindly signing absentee proxies.

It is surely up to the stockholders of corporations to get as loyal and able leaders as the union membership must some day insist that their directors and officials get results for them in the form of larger dividends when, as and if the labor leaders get more for their union membership.

Stockholders will some day insist on annual physical examinations and audits concerning the health of company directors and officials that same as they now have annual financial audits.

In this connection, both labor and management should have an equal right to press their views to one another and to the public. Both the unions and companies should gradually consolidate their operations so that the industry as a whole will be negotiating rather than independent companies. This is the English custom and should be adopted in the United States.

It is a mistake for President Truman to get mixed up either with rates of wages or prices of goods. As to inflation, following World War I we suffered from inflation but very little was done to prevent it. We have taken a great step forward in these past twenty years in recognizing both the advantages and dangers of inflation. Too much inflation should be fought like a plague first but some inflation now must be necessary in view of our tremendous war debt. Certainly wages and prices should be considered by the same mediation boards if prices are to be fixed for more than a short, temporary period.

**Corporation Officials Vs. Labor Leaders.**  
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# A JOB FOR JENNY

by Faith Baldwin

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**CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX**  
STEVE CLEARED his throat and Jenny stepped from the circle of Justice's arms and they turned. Steve said a little too loudly, "I have to go, Jenny. Ede thought that maybe you'd want to come along."

Jenny thought, How long has he been standing there? Her anxiety communicated itself to Justice, who put his hand on her arm briefly, reassuringly. He answered for her. He said, "But it's the shank of the evening . . . to come a phrase."

Steve said, "I've got to make a call. Are you coming or not, Jenny?" She thought, He did see us. If he had seen us sooner or later, he'd scolded and teased and exhorted her for most of her life. But it didn't matter. She didn't care what Steve thought. Perhaps, as a matter of fact, he didn't care what she did. He had other interests. And HER interest lay in keeping Justice Hathaway's interest in her . . . until he forgot Ede existed.

She said, "I'm coming, Steve." With such infuriating meekness that Steve was once more convinced with the desire to spank, but hard, and Justice grinned slightly. Jenny was developing new and more fascinating characteristics every moment.

They went back to the terrace. Justice making light conversation, asking about the consultation in the library. "I hope you and Mary will let me sit in one day," he said, "Jenny saying nothing at all. When they reached the others, Mary rose and came toward them. She said, her hand on Steve's arm, "Steve, Mr. Foster suggests that we drive up to Portland some time soon when you can get away for a day. He's going to be busy doing a job up there, something about post-war planning. But he thought, if we'd come up, you and Dad and I, he would have some definite suggestions and possibly rough plans."

Jenny inquired, "Dancing around at the pool like a couple of—of jitters?" Ede said, "Dancing around at the pool like a couple of—of jitters?" "Since when has amateur dancing been an exhibition?" "It's not necessary," said Ede savagely, "to make with the wisecracks. Falling in the pool and—"

Jenny said, "Everyone falls in pools." Ede said, "You're impossible. Jenny, going off with him like that after supper." Jenny said sweetly, "I forgot to take a chaperon."

Ede opened the door. Jenny went in. Ede slammed it. Gram came out of the living room and asked brightly, "Have a good time? Ede, you burned a little, didn't you? Who brought you home?" "Steve," said Ede, and went upstairs.

Gram looked at Jenny. She said, "What's the matter with her, and why didn't Steve come in?" Jenny ignored the first question and replied to the second. "He had a cold," she said. Gram observed that she was looking young and tired, her bright cotton frock a little crumpled, and her red hair out of control, her lipstick smudged. She asked, "Have enough to eat?" "Too much. It was wonderful."

Butch came down the stairs. She looked sleeker and fatter these days. But she had not given up hunting for her kittens. All but one had been given away. Butch had asked, "What's the use of having kittens year after year and not being around to see at least one of them grow up? It's silly. I do all the work and someone else has the benefit." To which Jenny had replied with another question, "Why keep on having them then, darling?" Butch, affronted, had replied, "But that is categorical!"

This was the sort of conversation Butch and Jenny had held for years. Long ago, when Butch was a kitten, she used to report to Steve who had affectionately opined that she was as crazy as a hoot owl. Originally the conversations were dreamed up to amuse Steve, but after he went away she had kept on with them. Sometimes she believed in them.

She had therefore insisted that Butch keep one kitten, a male, striped and raffish, with a crazy little tail. She had named him Uncle Rate after the extraordinary hill-billy baby created by Paul Webb. "Where's Uncle Rate?" asked Jenny.

Butch spoke purringly. "She says," reported Jenny, "that he's upstairs sleeping his tool head off." "You and that cat!" said Gram. She forgot to repeat her question about Ede.

On the following day two things happened. The first concerned Justice, coming in bright and early on a Monday morning, and the second concerned him also. He stood by Jenny's desk and put his hand on her hair. He said softly, "It ought to burn, but it doesn't. It feels cool and rather like curly silk."

Jenny moved away from his hand. She said, "How quaint!" Justice asked, "Have you forgiven me for last night?" She swung around, looked up at him. She said, "There's nothing to forgive. I could have stopped you." "Why didn't you?" "I didn't want to," replied Jenny, with perfect honesty. She watched Justice read his own meaning into that reply. She had intended him to, and now she saw him look slightly smug.

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**CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN**  
THE REST of the day no personal word was spoken. Two men from the Navy Department arrived early in the afternoon and Justice was with them until closing time. Then he came into Jenny's room. He said, "We're going to work late. You go home. I don't need you. I've dropped his voice—that is, I don't need you here."

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