

# Editorial

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opinions solicited.



## AUGUST PRODUCTION AT HIGH PEAK

The American industrial machine in August marked its  
best month since V-J Day, with production near capacity of  
basic materials, Civilian Production Administrator John D.  
Small revealed in his monthly survey.

The CPA report showed major gains in employment and  
in many consumer-durable goods industries. Vacuum clean-  
ers, radios, electric ranges and electric irons were estimated  
at productive levels from 40 to 65 per cent above prewar  
output. Automobiles, of which 241,000 were produced in  
that month, stood 15 per cent above the monthly average  
during the years 1930-39. Of the major "hard goods" items,  
only refrigerators and sewing machines were below the pre-  
war figures. The agency estimated employment in August  
at 58,000,000.

Building materials made "spectacular gains," with in-  
creases of from 20 to 35 per cent in one month in the out-  
put of plumbing fixtures and other critical construction  
products. The production of nails, a reconversion bottleneck,  
climbed 18 per cent to the highest levels so far this year.

"This record of achievement," Small said, "has probably  
never been surpassed in the history of building materials  
production over a comparable period of time. Indeed, it  
compares favorably with the rates of production increase on  
military production programs of high urgency achieved dur-  
ing the war period."

In the textile field, the report said that cotton broad  
woven goods hit their highest point of the year in August,  
with a production rate of 183,000,000 yards a week.

Small indicated that he anticipated a decline in shoe pro-  
duction during the coming months as a consequence of the  
decline in cattle slaughter, which deprives tanners of hides  
and leather.

The high production, Small said, was an indication that  
inventories, hitherto unbalanced, were being corrected. This  
means that a company will not have to hold up distribution  
to the public of a finished product because a single item  
necessary for it was not available.

The Department of Commerce, meanwhile, reported that  
manufacturers' inventories during August reached a new  
high of \$18,300,000,000, or a gain of 325 million dollars  
over July.

## BUILDING TRADES TACKLE HOUSING PROBLEM

Leaders of more than 1,500,000 AFL building trades work-  
ers tackled one of the Nation's outstanding problems—the  
housing shortage—at the annual convention of the Building  
and Construction Trades Department of the American Fed-  
eration of Labor in Chicago.

Opening discussions at the conclave revealed that there  
is no lack of labor in the construction industry, nor is there  
likely to be one for a long while. In fact, one of the serious  
headaches facing the department is the fact that there are  
not enough jobs to go around, due to the failure of the  
Nation's construction program to hit top stride.

Acting President Richard Gray and Secretary-Treasurer  
Herbert Rivers agreed in their report to the delegates that  
the chief causes of the delays in getting vitally needed con-  
struction projects started throughout the country are con-  
tinuing scarcities of building materials and bureaucratic  
mishandling of the distribution of available materials.

It was expected that the delegates would adopt strong  
resolutions calling for immediate expansion of the produc-  
tion of building materials and supplies and the creation of  
large stockpiles of materials to assure uninterrupted work,  
once construction begins on a large scale.

On the legislative side, it was considered a foregone con-  
clusion that the convention would go on record overwhelm-  
ingly for prompt adoption by the next Congress of the  
Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill.

This bill provides for centralization of Government author-  
ity over housing construction in a single Federal agency,  
with the maximum of encouragement to private enterprise  
to fill the housing needs of the long-suffering public. The  
bill, originally sponsored by the AFL, offers a clear and  
workable blueprint for a 10-year construction program to  
provide the American people with 15,000,000 new dwelling  
units, both in industrial centers and in agricultural areas.  
It includes a certain amount of public housing and slum  
clearance for those in the lower income brackets whose  
needs cannot be met by private investment on a profitable  
basis.

The convention enjoyed the largest turnout of delegates  
in the history of the department and large numbers of Gov-  
ernment and industry representatives attended as observers.

The department officers submitted detailed reports of the  
work of the Wage Adjustment Board in eliminating inequi-  
ties in local wage structures.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the reports of the  
department officers was the disclosure that stoppages of  
work due to jurisdictional disputes have been almost en-  
tirely eliminated.

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## RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

**THE GOLDEN RULE**  
In an excellent editorial in a  
New York paper recently, there  
was one sentence which greatly  
impressed me. "The only rule that  
works both ways is the Golden  
Rule."

The Golden Rule is the one rule  
that if sincerely followed could  
bring permanent and enduring  
peace to all the world. Nation  
would no longer war against na-  
tion, nor people against people,  
class against class, race against  
race, creed against creed.

The Golden Rule is the solution  
to all of the problems that beset  
our world today—and it begins  
with the individual. It does not re-  
quire wealth to apply it. It needs  
but a sincere belief in justice and  
fair play and an honest desire to  
put into practice the second great  
commandment, "Thou shalt love  
thy neighbor as thyself."

The Golden Rule is a personal  
rule of life. It does not demand  
great sacrifices. It does not de-  
mand great deeds of courage. It  
demands only that each man do  
unto his neighbor as he would be  
done by.

Under the Golden Rule, there  
are no master races or Herren-  
volk. The rich cannot say "My in-  
terests are vested in me." The poor  
cannot cry "My needs come first."  
The employer cannot put his prof-  
its first, nor the worker his wages.  
Nor can any group, by virtue of  
class or color or creed, claim spe-  
cial privilege.

Under the Golden Rule there is  
no discrimination and all men not  
only have rights but responsibil-  
ities. Rights are but the rewards  
of duties well done—and the full  
duty of man, which is the distin-  
guishing mark that has lifted him  
above the beasts of the field, is  
that he assumes responsibility for  
the right of his neighbor.

The Golden Rule is the law of  
brotherhood. It is the law of kind-  
ness and of friendliness. It is the  
law which can be followed by the  
humblest as well as by those in  
highest authority. The Golden Rule  
is the law of love—that love  
which is the fulfilling of the law.

"Therefore all things whatsoever  
ye would that men should do to  
you, do ye even so to them! For  
this is the law and the prophets."

## WORKING IT OUT

By FRANCES PERKINS

A very effective Labor Day  
speech by the Honorable Lewis  
Schwellenbach, Secretary of Labor,  
calls attention to a new problem  
in discrimination against individ-  
uals. He makes a particular plea  
against discrimination in employ-  
ment with regard to people who  
have a physical handicap.

It is indeed one of the saddest  
spectacles in American life to see  
men denied employment in which  
they could earn a living and sup-  
port their families because they  
have lost a leg, or even a finger  
in some accident; because they  
have a chronic but arrested dia-  
betes; because they are arrested  
tubercular cases; because they  
have a mild murmur of the heart;  
or less than perfect eyesight or  
hearing.

No one wants to suggest that a  
man who is blind be given work  
to do which is totally dependent  
upon his eyesight or that an ad-  
vanced heart case be asked to do  
laborious work involving heavy  
lifting. But in many industries it  
is a practice to require a physical  
examination of all applicants for  
work and to refuse to hire people  
with slight handicaps for work  
which they know themselves able  
to do.

The need for a job is perhaps  
greater for a man with a physical  
handicap than for any other. He  
often has to incur large medical  
bills in the prevention of serious  
collapse or disability and he, more  
than the ordinary person, feels the  
need of laying up a little money  
for possible periods of illness and  
for his wife and children if he  
shouldn't live to old age.

Sometimes the refusal to employ  
is cited as exaggerated humani-  
tarianism but men and women who  
have a handicap are themselves the  
best judges of what they are able  
to do and what their best total  
interests impel them to do. There  
is a school of thought among some  
employers which holds that people  
with slight or serious physical de-  
fects are more likely to have acci-  
dents and that if they do have  
industrial accidents their physical  
ability to work may be more se-  
riously affected than in the case  
of a man in perfect health. There  
is, unfortunately, also the fear that  
the compensation cost will be a  
little high in such cases. This  
sometimes is enough to lead a

company to the inhuman employ-  
ment policy of excluding all but  
those in perfect health and phys-  
ique.

In order to meet this insurance  
problem, some states have estab-  
lished what is known as a "second  
injury fund" out of which such  
workers can be paid in case of a  
second injury. The whole attitude  
of denying work to handicapped  
people is inhuman and against the  
interests of the individual workers  
of the United States.

Insurance was meant to socialize  
and spread the cost of an accident.  
Common humanity urges a recon-  
sideration of this discriminatory  
attitude and a recognition of a  
man's right to work at job which  
he decides will not too greatly en-  
danger his life and health.

As a matter of fact, during the  
war years when there was such  
heavy demand for labor these very  
handicapped people were employed  
without question and did effective  
and important work, often of high  
skill. Blind people, deaf people,  
people with all forms of chronic  
and inactive illnesses worked and  
produced in the war effort. They  
demonstrated how capable they  
are of earning a living and con-  
tributing to the public good if a  
little intelligence is exercised in  
the selection and supervision of  
their work. Industrial management  
learned how to employ these peo-  
ple in a moment of necessity; in-  
dustrial management must now  
learn how to continue that em-  
ployment and so give the handi-  
capped man or woman a fair  
chance to be self-supporting and  
contributory. A man with a bad  
heart or an arrested tuberculosis  
is not likely to live longer and  
more happily because he is with-  
out a job, without income, and  
without the comfort of the self-re-  
specting knowledge that he carries  
on.

All men must die and something  
must be left to the good Lord in  
the way of decision as to when  
that time let those who want to work,  
work in the fields in which they  
are already skilled or can be  
taught the necessary skill.

Discrimination of all kinds—  
whether on racial or religious  
grounds—in opportunity to earn a  
living is unjust, but discrimination  
because of physical handicaps is  
cruel.

## Uncle Sam Says



All of us are discoverers in some  
fashion. During the war millions of  
my nieces and nephews made one  
of the most important discoveries  
concerning their future happiness  
... that it is easy to save effectively.  
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