

State Workmen's Compensation Laws Are Now Strengthened Considerably By Legislative Action

Washington, D. C. — Twenty-five states enacted legislation in 1947 improving and strengthening existing workmen's compensation laws, according to an article in "Labor Information," a monthly bulletin prepared by the Labor Department.

Five states passed new occupational disease laws. Second injury funds were established in South Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia. As a result of this action, there are now 35 states which have second injury funds or equivalent arrangements. Under the previous law in West Virginia there was an "equivalent arrangement" under which payment for second injuries was paid out of the regular accident fund. The amendment sets up a special second injury reserve in the surplus fund.

A number of states provided for increased benefits. In Colorado benefits were increased in cases of disability and death and the total maximum allowed in disability cases was also raised. A Delaware amendment provides for payment of compensation during the entire period of total disability instead of being limited to 500 weeks. In Indiana an injured employe may receive compensation for schedule injuries in addition to compensation for temporary total disability.

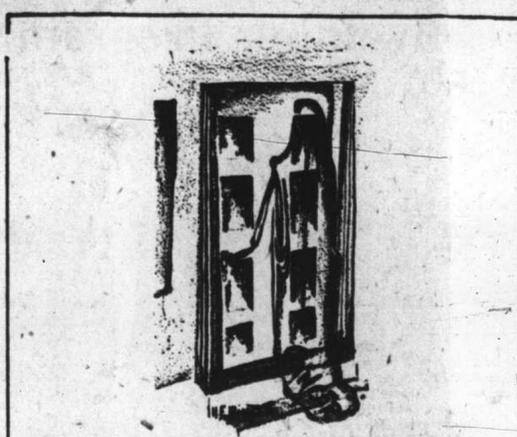
In Kansas the aggregate maximum death benefits were raised and the weekly benefits in disability cases were increased. An amendment in Maryland increased the maximum weekly benefits in cases of total disability and the aggregate maximum in permanent partial disability cases. This amendment also provides that compensation in death cases shall be paid for 500 weeks. In Montana, Nevada and New Mexico, benefits for all types of disability and death were increased. The benefits were also raised in North Carolina and in that state compensation is now payable for life in cases of total disability due to paralysis resulting from injuries to the spinal cord. Disability and medical benefits

special provision which permits an employer to reject the schedule and elect to be bound for full coverage of all occupational diseases. The New York law was amended so as to eliminate special limitations with regard to silicosis benefits.

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Cancer, Sneak Thief of Life

WHEN you bolt your door at night, the principle objective is to keep out intruders, to guard against thieves and to safeguard your property and your life. Sometimes thieves get in anyway. They pry open a window or jimmy the backdoor and under cover of the darkness, rob you of whatever is valuable. But, although burglars may force an entrance to your home in spite of precautions, you find it only common sense to lock the door every night.

Then why don't you lock the door against cancer? Cancer is the greatest sneak thief of life in the whole underworld of disease yet few people take the proper steps to keep this prowling murderer from their homes.

Cancer, still unshackled, will be responsible for the deaths of 184,300 Americans in 1947, but a vast police force of scientists is on its trail and some day will bring the killer to book for all time. Until then, all we can do is lock the door as best we may against this stealthy footpad. These facts were pointed out by officials of the American Cancer Society today.

Through the use of radium, x-ray and surgery, most cancer can be cured if detected in its early stages. At least one-third of those who die of this disease may be saved if treated in time.

The way to lock the door against cancer is to have frequent medical examinations, either by your family physician or at a cancer detection center. You, too, can help to keep out the intruder if you are alert for "signs" of cancer. If any of the following conditions occur, see your doctor immediately. It might mean cancer or it might be nothing serious. Don't take chances with your life. See your physician at once if you have—

- 1) Any sore that does not heal, particularly about the tongue, or lips; 2) a painless lump or thickening, especially in the breast, lip or tongue; 3) Irregular bleeding or discharge from any of the natural body openings; 4) progressive change in the color or size of a wart or mole; 5) persistent indigestion; 6) persistent hoarseness, unexplained cough or difficult swallowing; 7) any radical change in the normal bowel habits.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
47 Beaver Street, New York 4, N. Y.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT SLIGHTLY SAFER NOW

Washington, D. C.—If you work in a factory, your chances of being killed or injured are less than a year ago, the Department of Labor reported this week.

The accident rate in manufacturing, the Department said, declined from 18.2 disabling injuries for each million employe-hours worked in the first quarter of 1946 to 16 in the same period of 1947.

However, because of sharply increased employment over a year ago, and longer hours worked, the total number of persons injured rose by 19,000 to 127,000 for the quarter. Of these, 400 died and 5,000 suffered permanent disabilities.

AFL PAINTERS OBTAIN HOURLY WAGE INCREASE

Providence, R. I.—Six hundred painters of the AFL voted to accept a 20-cents-an-hour wage increase.

The painters, who had been receiving \$1.27 1-2 an hour, sought an increase of 31 1-2 cents through their union, Local 195, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, which has jurisdiction over painters in Providence, Warwick, Bristol and Westerly. The counter-offer of the employers was 18 3-4 cents an hour. The painters now will receive \$1.57 1-2 an hour.

We must make a sincere effort to work with those employers who believe that production can only come through industrial peace," he declared.

A large part of Mr. Meany's address was devoted to an analysis of the difficult path labor will have to trod under the new legislation. Pointing to the real intent of the law, to weaken the trade union movement, he said that a weak trade union, which cannot render effective service to its membership, is in the last analysis no union at all.

Mr. Meany labeled the Taft-Hartley law as one which will not contribute in the slightest degree to the establishment of industrial peace. In fact, any attempt to legislate peace in labor-management relations is doomed to failure, he asserted.

"Perhaps the best way to state this basic conclusion is to quote from a report made by the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Relations. This committee composed exclusively of legislators on a bi-partisan basis made a comprehensive study of the entire problem of employer-employee relationships that continued for quite a few years with considerable expense to the State of New York. There were no representatives of organized labor on this committee. We find this committee stating a firm conviction on this subject which it reached, after some years of study, in 1940 and which, in 1943 it still felt so strongly that it was the highlight of a report submitted to the New York State Legislature in that year. Let me quote this statement of the New York State Joint Legislative Committee:

"The most satisfactory and happiest human relationships are the product not of legal compulsion, but rather of voluntary determination among human beings to co-operate with one another. Though we may legislate to the end of time, there will never be industrial peace and harmony without good faith, integrity, a high degree of responsibility and a real desire to co-operate on the part of all parties concerned. Without this spirit of good will, all of the social, economic and labor laws of man will prove eventually to be in vain."

Reiterates Plans To Repeal Law

(Continued From Page 1)

constitutional and destructive of workers' rights. "We intend to challenge in the courts every section of the Taft-Hartley Act which we feel is un-

were increased in many states in addition to changes in death benefits.

All of the states except Oregon provide for a specified waiting period immediately following the injury during which compensation is not paid. This "waiting time" ranges from a minimum of one day to a maximum of 10 days, with the majority of the states requiring a 7-day waiting period. Two states passed legislation on this subject. In Nevada the waiting period was reduced from 7 days to 5 days. An amendment in Vermont continued the waiting period of 7 days, but provided that compensation is to be paid for the whole period of disability if the disability lasts for 21 days after the seventh day.

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"We will use every legal means at our command to defeat, at the polls, all those members of Congress who voted for final enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill." Without retracting from this strong stand on action to be taken, Mr. Meany cautioned against irresponsible conduct on the part of union leaders.

Faced with a law that is in itself "an invitation to industrial discord and strife, we find ourselves face to face with a difficult situation that calls for the highest degree of statesmanship on the part of organized labor, if we are to serve our workers and bring to them the real benefits of trade union organization." "Despite the Taft-Hartley Act,

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