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**LABOR DEPARTMENT IS
APPREHENSIVE OVER
LABOR LAW PROVISIONS**

York, Pa.—John W. Gibson, Assistant Secretary of Labor, said that the Labor Department was "apprehensive" over the Taft-Hartley Labor Act.

He declared there was "a very real danger" that the law contained "elements which might be the forerunner of dire consequences."

It was the Labor Department's first official statement on the new law since its enactment on June 23, although Secretary Lewis B. Swollenbach spoke out against many of its provisions when they were still pending in Congress.

Mr. Gibson's speech was for the summer industrial conference of the United Wallpaper Company. He had been invited to give an analysis of the new law, but he had told the sponsors of the conference beforehand that he would not attempt this. And tonight he said:

"The fact is, no comprehensive analysis exists, and the host of embryo analysis which have come from parties at interest are inclined to leave one in a state of bewilderment."

"I can tell you, however, that we in the Department of Labor, like many employers and leaders of the American labor movement, are apprehensive over some of the results which may come out of its administration."

Most of the law will be administered by the National Labor Relations Board. The Labor Department has only two or three duties under the act.

Mr. Gibson's objections appeared to be on the ground that the law puts the Government further into labor-management relationships.

**REAL WAGES LAGGING
DESPITE PAY RAISES**

Washington, D. C.—Earnings of factory workers hit a new high in June of \$48.91 a week, but in terms of "real wages" the workers are worse off than a year ago and in much poorer position than during the war, Department of Labor reports showed.

During the past 12 months, weekly earnings in manufacturing rose by less than 13 per cent, while the official living cost index shot up 18 per cent.

The gap is even greater compared to the peak wartime year of 1944. Weekly earnings then averaged \$46.08 a week. "Take-home" pay now is only about 6 per cent higher than the 1944 average, while living costs are 25 per cent greater.

Thus, in terms of buying power, the earnings of factory workers are 19 per cent below wartime levels.

Furthermore, the June "take-home" wage of industrial workers will buy only as much as \$30 did back in 1939, the Department said.

**FHA MORTGAGE ACTIVITY
NOW AT RECORD VOLUME**

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Housing Administration in the first half of 1947 received a record volume of applications for mortgage insurance, with all dwelling units involved totaling about 276,000, Commissioner Raymond M. Foley announced.

Approximately 200,000 new units were covered by the total, Mr. Foley said, with more than a third in multiple family rental housing projects. There were 1,671 rental housing project applications, comprising 68,702 units.

In addition to applications on mortgages covering new construction, FHA received applications involving approximately 76,000 units in existing one to four family dwellings.

**U. S. FARM LABOR HOUSING
AVAILABLE TO FARM CO-OPS**

Washington, D. C.—A bill permitting non-profit farm associations to buy housing facilities of the farm labor supply program was signed by President Truman.

The law says the facilities are to continue in use for housing purposes. They have been used for migratory and seasonal labor. There are 52 permanent and 70 temporary housing camps with accommodations for 69,000 people.

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