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# Data On Forced Labor Proof Of Red System

By **MATTHEW WOLL**  
 Chairman, AFL International  
 Labor Relations Committee

(The following statement was issued after the British government made public an English translation of a portion of the law code of Soviet Russia setting forth the detailed regulations for the operation of her vicious forced labor system):

The working people of all nations owe a debt of deep gratitude to the government of Great Britain for making public and available to the free world the text of the forced labor laws prevailing in the Russian empire.

By presenting the full and official text of the "Chronological Collection of Laws and Decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and Ordinances" regarding the system of forced labor in the Communist "paradise," the British government has provided further irrefutable proof of the monstrous slave economy to which all those in the Kremlin orbit are today subjected. Thereby, the British government has rendered the highest distinguished service to the cause of human freedom and decency.

The American Federation of Labor is especially gratified with the publication of this historic, though tragic, document. This publication will serve to win still greater support for the campaign to eliminate the rising danger of forced labor as initiated by the American Federation of Labor through its consultants to the United Nations Economic and Social Council more than two years ago. We welcome and heartily endorse the initial steps taken by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in acting on our resolution for a world-wide survey of forced labor and the preparation of a program for its eradication in every part of the globe. No matter where this soul-crushing and utterly inhuman slave

economy exists, it must be abolished root and branch.

The text of the "Collection of Laws and Decrees" regarding slave labor in the Russian empire painfully confirms the fact that this dire threat to human dignity is even more grave and extensive than our worst fears led us to believe. Herein is revealed the distressing fact that punishment, vengeance, and ruthless exploitation of man by man for the benefit of an ever-narrowing power-mad clique is an organic feature of the entire economic system of Soviet Russia and its concepts of law, justice and even education. Here is a terrible challenge to the freedom-loving people of all lands. The plight of the Russian people is the most intense concern of all liberty-seeking nations. The world cannot and will not be truly free as long as millions of its inhabitants in the sprawling Russian empire live in the dread fear and under the crushing burdens of 20th century slavery — streamlined by modern technique and the methods of mass production under the flag of Communist totalitarianism.

In the realization of the above grave menace to democracy and the noblest ideals and moral values of mankind, the American Federation of Labor pledges itself to pursue with redoubled vigor its drive against slave labor no matter where it exists and to give the widest publicity to and secure the fullest understanding of the degrading provisions and "principles" of the "Collection of Laws and Decrees" regarding forced labor in Soviet Russia.

The first book printed on the press brought across the Atlantic by the Puritans. The book was a hymnal, produced on a printing North American continent was a entitled "Bay Song Book."

## LABOR DAY MESSAGE FROM JOHN P. FREY

(Continued From Page 3)  
 tar of free institutions stronger than ever.

One outstanding accomplishment during the past year was the successful effort of the American Federation of Labor to carry forward the organization of a new international federation of labor which would exclude the so-called Russian trade unions, and those of the satellite countries.

It may well be that when the history of this period is written, it will be found that an international federation of labor which excluded the state organized and controlled unions in the Soviet countries, played as great a part in saving free institutions as the agreements for self-defense which have been entered into by the self-governing countries.

We never have had greater reason for pride in the American trade union movement as represented by the American Federation of Labor. There has never been greater opportunity to serve our country and all of the other nations composed of free men.

No workman can be a good trade unionist without being a good American.

Good Americans today will close ranks with a determination to maintain their free institutions, regardless of the sacrifices which may be necessary.

The march of Russian dictatorship must be halted, so that freedom will not perish from the earth.



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