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ABUSES OF 'SHELL' HOUSING PROJECTS EXPOSED BY UNIONS

A 150-page illustrated book, "The Gift of Freedom," describing the level of living—on the job and off—of the American worker, has been released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The book, according to bureau officials, is "designed to inform the worker in foreign countries how his American counterpart lives." Eight chapters describe in detail: workers' employment characteristics; the economic basis for their living standards; what their wages will buy in terms of an hour's work; their standards of living; working conditions and labor legislation; the history, development and influence of the labor movement; and the historical basis for personal and political freedom.

The volume takes its title from the theme of a 5-page introduction which refers to Walt Whitman's conception of America "as an inheritor and protector of world liberty" bound by a responsibility both "fearsome and sacred."

By example and by other means as well, it states we must make good on our obligation with respect to "this gift of freedom American democracy held only in trust."

Our ability to do so, the introduction states is tested by (1) whether workers prosper as the economy as a whole prospers; (2) the flexibility of the system in permitting "freedom of movement, choice, conscience and opportunity;" and (3) the progressive improvement of the status and influence of the worker. The facts are measurable, the introduction continues, because "one of the benefits of a free society is the right of free inquiry, and Americans have made extensive use of that right."

It warns that it is "not an economic and social system alone which guarantees prosperity and security," but rather that any system which "provides freedom to the individual, and allows him to participate to the fullest extent to the solution of problems which beset it, stand the greatest chance of maximum utilization of its human and natural resources."

Pointing candidly at "flaws" in the operation of the American system, it contends that "our mistakes impede but do not halt our progress or change our direction." We possess the combination of circumstances necessary to "virile democratic leadership" and reconstruction; free

labor, free unions, social conscience, sacred regard for individual dignity, and economic capacity. Even more than our material treasure "we want to share those free institutions of free men which are imbedded in the very marrow of any democratic social structure. That indeed is the gift of freedom."

Copies are available for 55 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Factory Workers' Average Earnings Hold Steady

Washington. — Weekly earnings for the 11,700,000 production workers in the nation's factories averaged \$53.66 in mid-July, 1949, continuing at the preceding month's level, according to preliminary estimates made available by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The factory work-week, at 38.8 hours, maintained the slight upturn reported for June, but averaged about 1 hour below July, 1948, the bureau said.

Despite a significant advance in the work-week for the automobile group, average weekly hours for the durable goods division as a whole declined slightly from 39.3 to 39 hours over the month.

Shorter work-weeks were reported by the iron and steel, electrical machinery, and the lumber products groups, reflecting in part holiday and vacation shutdowns in addition to the continuance of reduced business purchasing.

Responding to record levels of output, weekly earnings for automobile parts and assembling establishments advanced to an all-time high in mid-July.

Returning to the average for the first quarter of this year, the work-week for the nondurable goods industries increased slightly for the third consecutive month.

Following the low level of weekly earnings for April, the average for the soft goods division has moved upward to about the December, 1948, peak. Moderately lengthened work-weeks were again reported by the textile, apparel and leather groups.

The advance from 41.7 to 42.2 hours for the food group reflects the further continuance of summer seasonal expansion in most food processing industries.

HUTCHESON URGES LABOR TO UP POLITICAL DRIVE

Bend, Ore., Aug. 9.—Speaking to a joint convention of three district councils of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, President William Hutcheson urged stronger political action on the part of labor for 1950.

Hutcheson told the carpenters that it was especially necessary to get the wives and relatives of union members registered so that a full labor vote could wipe out the present anti-labor majority in the Senate and House.

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