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**WHITE COLLAR WORKERS  
 NEED ORGANIZING,  
 TOBIN SAYS**

WASHINGTON, D. C.—American labor must concentrate on organizing the more than 13 million unorganized white collar workers in the United States, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin said in an address before the 21st quadrennial convention of the Retail Clerks International Association, AFL.

"That's where labor must concentrate its energy and its strength," Tobin declared. "These workers need organized labor, and organized labor needs them."

As in the entire white collar field, the organizing job among retail sales people "has only begun," the Secretary of Labor said. However, one answer to the problem has been worked out through collective bargaining, he stated—the union shop. Tobin strongly advocated the union shop in retail trade establishments and said it had proved of service to both management and unions. Employees like it, he said, because "it does away with constant organizing" in their stores. Unions like it because they don't have to work "night and day" to



**ME NO SMOKUM...!! Where UNION LABEL?**

keep up with the turn-over in employees.

Tobin said the number of white collar workers is steadily growing. Ten years ago, he noted, there were less than 11 million of them, and they made up slightly more than 24 per cent of all employed workers in the country. Today there are more than 15 million, constituting nearly 28 per cent of all employed workers.

Since 1939, the average weekly earnings of clerical and professional workers has gone up 92 per cent, he pointed out, as compared with 170 per cent for production workers in industry. "A part of the superior wages position of the factory worker, I am convinced, is due to the strength of his labor unions," he said.

"But unionism for white collar workers isn't important only because it brings higher wages and better working conditions. It's important also because it gives the worker an opportunity to participate in deciding what those wages and working conditions should be. It makes him a citizen of his firm or factory with a democratic right to a voice in its affairs. He isn't just a number on a time card. He's a man who has his say, through his elected representatives, in the way things are run."

There are a lot of white collar

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"So far as organized labor is concerned, we regard war as the greatest enemy of mankind and we count any cost that will prevent a third World War.

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"From the beginning, the American Federation of Labor recognized Soviet Russia, as the enemy of our free civilization. Again and again, we issued warnings against communist aggression. Time after time we called the turn. Year after year we fought and resisted every attempt by the communists to gain sway over the workers of the world, not only in our own country, but in South America, Europe and Asia.

"Now the full scope of communist treachery and the full danger of the communist threat against world peace is at last becoming apparent to all Americans and to all freedom-loving and peace-loving peoples everywhere." — Excerpt from William Green's 1950 Labor Day Message.

workers who still turn up their noses at trade unionism, Tobin stressed. "They do it out of a kind of snobbishness, a feeling that unions are for factory workers, and that factory workers are beneath them. They don't want to degrade the white collar by belonging to the same labor movement with workers who wear overalls."

"You would have thought that kind of thinking went out with the horse and buggy," he said.

"I want to tell you," he went on, "that the trade union movement has been one of the most constructive forces in the history of the United States. If there's any man too good to be associated with it, I'd like to know who he is.

"It's privilege to belong to an American labor union. It's an honor to belong to one. And any worker, no matter what color his collar is, can join one with pride."

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**QUADRUPLE AMPUTEE AIDS  
 LESS FORTUNATE**

Robert L. Smith, first quadruple amputee (June issue, page 10) has again proved himself a great American!

With more than \$120,000 in an American Legion trust fund for him, which means that Bob Smith should never again have to worry about his financial future, he started worrying about other amputees. When he was asked by the American Legion Commander of the State of Pennsylvania, Joseph S. McCracken, what he would do with his money, he gasped, "Boy, I hope I'll never have to use all that, Commander. There are lots worse off than I am." And this from a boy not yet 21, whose family has never had money.

This led to the idea of the Robert L. Smith Foundation. A drive with a goal of \$1,000,000 will open in Lancaster, Pa., on July 11. The Foundation will help all amputees in Pennsylvania, civilians and children, as well as veterans, according to Commander McCracken.

As for Bob, something even greater than the \$120,000 assurance of a financial future has happened for him. Maj. Gen. Paul H. Streit, chief of the Army Medical Corps, has said that he should definitely be able to walk again on artificial limbs.

—The Purple Heart Magazine.

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