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**Some Progress Made On
 State Labor Laws As
 44 Legislatures Meet**
 (A Roundup for Labor Press
 Associated)
 WASHINGTON (LPA) — By
 Labor Day each year most State
 legislatures have completed their
 regular and special sessions and
 the working men affected can get
 a look at the annual crop of labor
 laws.

In 1953 when the legislatures
 of 44 States and the three Terri-
 tories met in regular session, a
 number of laws of benefit to the
 workers were passed, including
 laws in the fields of minimum
 wage, wage collection, anti-dis-
 crimination, workmen's compensa-
 tion, and unemployment insurance.
 Little major legislation, however,
 was enacted in the fields of child
 labor or industrial relations.

The statutory minimum wage
 rate was raised in Hawaii, New
 Hampshire, and Nevada. The
 Hawaii minimum hourly rate was
 raised from 40 cents to 65 cents
 in Honolulu County and to 55
 cents elsewhere, and the New
 Hampshire minimum from 50 to
 60 cents, with a minimum of 50
 cents for theatre ushers and pin-
 boys in bowling alleys. Both the
 Hawaii and New Hampshire laws
 apply to men, women, and minors.
 Under the Nevada law, which ap-
 plies only to women and girls,
 the minimum was raised from 50
 cents to 75 cents an hour.

A new development this year
 was the approval by three States
 —California, Nevada, and Oregon
 —of authority for the labor de-
 partments to enter into reciprocal
 agreements for the collection of
 wage claims where the employer
 has left the State in which the
 claim arose.

Legislation to prevent discrimi-
 nation in employment on account
 of race, creed, or national origin
 was enacted in Alaska and in
 Kansas. The Alaska law is a
 mandatory type of law, like those
 already in existence in Connecti-
 cut, Massachusetts, New Jersey,
 New Mexico, New York, Oregon,
 Rhode Island and Washington.
 The Kansas law is designed to
 eliminate discrimination by means
 of education and informal concili-
 ation, and is similar to the Colo-
 rado, Indiana, and Wisconsin laws.

Alaska enacted a new law to
 regulate private employment agen-
 cies, and Oregon revised its law
 on that subject strengthening its
 coverage of farm labor contract-

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**Ninety-two Field Councils
 Spread Safety Training
 Among Federal Workers**

WASHINGTON (LPA)—Working
 for Uncle Sam is becoming a
 safer occupation. In 1951 nearly
 91,000 civilian Federal Workers
 were hurt on the job, and close
 to 3.4 million days of productive
 time were lost as a result of
 these injuries. Today, through
 the work of the Federal Safety
 Council, more than half of Uncle
 Sam's far-flung employees or
 1,347,000 receive the benefits of
 a vigorous co-operative safety
 Council.

This enormous increase in safety
 activities within the Federal
 Safety Council came about be-
 cause the council took to heart
 the oft-repeated suggestion that
 Government should lead, not lag,
 in accident prevention. To lead
 in job safety Uncle Sam had to
 reach out to the places where
 men got hurt and try to prevent
 such injury. Since 90 per cent
 of the Federal Government activi-
 ties are field operations, safety ed-
 ucation had to be carried to the
 people in the field to be effective.

In June, 1952, the Federal Safety
 Council started out to organize
 field councils among employes
 scattered all over the United
 States and the Territories. It
 sought and secured the whole-
 hearted co-operation of the Presi-
 dent and the heads of all depart-
 ments and agencies. Then it con-
 tacted designated leaders in the
 field. Like magic, field councils
 sprang up all over the place.
 Where last year there were only
 14 field councils in the Nation,
 there are 92 today. You'll find
 them in 42 States and three Ter-
 ritories.

Conservation of manpower is
 not only important to the men
 and women who might get hurt,
 and to the Nation in a time of
 defense production, but it is im-
 portant to the taxpayer as well.
 Injury costs have risen consider-
 ably because of increased benefits
 under the Federal Employees'
 Compensation Act. For instance,
 the average fatal case in 1948
 cost \$12,926; in 1951, \$33,662.
 These facts point to the need for
 safety training and accident pre-
 vention in every Government op-
 eration in the Nation.

Some Backward Steps
 Little legislation was enacted
 this year to give added protection
 to working children, and some
 States took backward steps. In
 New York the minimum age for
 boys in street trades was raised
 from 12 to 14, except for carriers,
 for whom the minimum remained
 at 12. Ohio extended for two
 more years a law which suspend-
 ed the night work prohibition for
 girls 18-21 and permitted girls
 16-18 work until 10 p. m. instead
 of 6 p. m., but at the same time
 set a minimum age of 18 for a
 considerable number of hazardous
 occupations. In Florida the mini-
 mum age for nonfactory work out-
 side school hours was reduced
 from 12 to 10. In New Hamp-
 shire boys of 12 instead of 14
 may now deliver newspapers after
 5 a. m., and boys of this age
 may also be employed as golf
 caddies.

Picketing Restricted
 In the field of industrial rela-
 tions, five States enacted legisla-
 tion. Three of these restricted
 picketing to some extent—Arkansas,
 North Dakota, and Oregon.
 On the other hand, North Dakota
 repealed a law requiring unions
 to file financial reports and other
 information with the Secretary
 of State. The new law also set
 up procedures to mediate labor
 disputes.

A Division of Labor Elections
 to conduct representation elections
 was created in Oregon. New Jer-
 sey and New York authorized an
 interstate compact for the pur-
 pose of eliminating the shape-up
 method of hiring longshoremen
 and port watchmen. The acts
 also require stevedores, pier su-
 perintendents, and hiring agents
 to be licensed.

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