

Labor Sunday Messages from National Churches of Christ, U.S.A.

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By the same token, individual members of unions are called upon to assume their full share of responsibility for union policies and programs and, particularly, for the maintenance of union democracy. Regular attendance at union meetings is the very minimum to be expected of every worker who holds a union card.

Management, in turn, is reminded of its responsibility to be honest in appraising its own financial situation. Too often in collective bargaining negotiations the language of management would seem to indicate proximate financial collapse, even though their official records reveal that they are earning fair profits after generous provision has been made for depreciation and future expansion. Such misleading statements, made for the purpose of bargaining, naturally tend to develop a spirit of distrust among employees and union leaders.

Finally, labor and management have a joint responsibility to forestall the harmful effects of inflation. In negotiating collective agreements, they may not legitimately use their economic strength to advance their own interests at the expense of less-favored groups who are dependent on a fixed income and lack the necessary bargaining power to keep up with the rising cost of living.

Christian Meaning of Labor Day

In concluding this annual statement, in which we have counseled an attitude of guarded and realistic optimism, we ask you to join with the Vicar of Christ, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in reflecting prayerfully on the spiritual meaning of Labor Day:

"Who better than the true Christian can give to Labor Day a profound significance! For him it is a day on which he venerates and adores all the more intensely the Man-God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, that He might be our model, our consolation and sanctification passed the greater part of His life, in the exercise of a manual trade, as a humble worker (Cfr. Matt. 13, Mark b. 3); it is the day of thanksgiving to God on the part of all those who provide assurance, through their labor, of a tranquil and peaceful life for themselves and their families; it is the day on which is affirmed the will to overcome class warfare and hatred with the strength deriving from the realization of social justice, from mutual respect and fraternal charity for the love of Christ; it is the day, in fine, on which believing humanity solemnly promises to create by the labor of men's minds and hands a culture that gives glory to God, a culture that, far from alienating man from God, brings man ever closer to Him."

(His Holiness Pope Pius XII, Address, May 1, 1953.)

May these beautiful words of the Holy Father inspire the working

people of the United States and their fellow-citizens from other walks of life to renew their dedication to the cause of social justice and social charity. And may they be accepted as an expression of the continuing interest of the Catholic Church in the material as well as the spiritual and supernatural welfare of all of God's children regardless of their occupation, nationality, race, or social status.

Goals of Unions Have Definite Spiritual Implications

By DR. MAURICE N. EISENDRATH
President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Co-Chairman, Commission on Religious Organizations
National Conference of Christians and Jews

It is a privilege to salute the forces of organized labor on this day set aside for special tribute to those who toil with hand and mind.

The Hebrew word for labor is *Avodah*. Interestingly, the same word means, in the Sacred Tongue, "religious service." I believe that the twin meanings of this word are magnificently demonstrated in the growing awareness on the part of unions that their goals have definite spiritual implications.

To do one's allotted work with conscientiousness, and to espouse the cause of social advance, constitute genuine religious functions.

I pray that all laborers, at desks and in the ranks, will ever be mindful of the fact that they are engaged in enterprises tinged with spirituality. And let us remember the words of the Psalms: "Who shall ascend into the mountain of the Lord and who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

May a spirit of zeal plus purity of hands and heart also continue to characterize your struggle against illiberalism and reaction, against bigotry and injustice, against greed and strife. May you in humility recognize your own shortcomings and seek to eliminate them. May you who have pioneered in so many ways also strive towards the heightened unification of all groups who live in our beloved land. And may that land be blessed with peace.

We of the Jewish faith now approach our High Holy Day season. Perhaps a prayer from our Rosh Hashanah liturgy is the most fitting greeting of all for Labor Day:

"Our Father, our King, keep far from our country pestilence, war and famine.

"Our Father, our King, cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth.

"Our Father, our King, inscribe us for blessing in the book of life.

"Our Father, our King, grant unto us a year of happiness. Amen."

LABOR'S Declaration!

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L.P.A. Poses Questions to Nation's Labor Leaders

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unity among the working people of America, for only when that is accomplished can we have oppressive laws repealed and progressive measures enacted.

There must be unity all the way down the line—among those new members of unions and those still outside. While the present situation prevails the anti-union forces make holiday.

The United Textile Workers of America stands ready to ratify the no-raiding agreement submitted by the unity committee of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The 1952 convention of our union authorized this stand, which is our historic position. We are ready to make such a bargain, and if our word is given it will be scrupulously honored.

If unity among organized workers is thus attained, we shall be able to remove the chief bar to substantial progress. Our union will be free to use its resources to complete the organization of the textile industry, where now there are hundreds of thousands of workers who are members of no union and who are used by the greedy to check the legitimate aspirations of trade unionists and to punish the decent employers with whom they bargain.

The present situation is bad not only for unionism but for the country. Now it is possible for the greedy to keep standards down by playing section against section through the fostering of racial and geographical fears and hates.

It is only when that organization is substantially completed that we can move forward. As of now, it is often safe for Northern reactionaries to join with their Southern counterparts in the enactment of anti-labor measures. We know that the great bulk of the unorganized in our industry want to join hands with us, and once they are able to speak and to act as free American workers, they will so make their power felt that the corrupt alliance of Northern and Southern anti-unionists will be smashed.

In summary, the United Textile Workers of America see as the task before them the completion of the organization of our industry. When that is brought about it will be possible to repeal the repressive features of the Taft-Hartley Act. Given an organized textile industry, we shall prevail in our fight for the National Textile Bill and end the ruinous throat-cutting which menaces the security and the advancement of our people.

Unity of CIO, AFL and Independents Would Demand Respect From Employers

By D. W. Tracy, President International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL.

"What do you regard as the most pressing task for the Labor Movement in the year ahead?"

That is a most serious and thought-provoking question. Labor has many tasks for the year ahead—most conditions for its members, safeguarding their rights, fighting bitter anti-labor campaigns in state legislatures, resisting a weakening of social security and a hacking away of other benefits that years of effort and sacrifice have attained. But these are all subordinate to Labor's No. 1 job for the year ahead—organic unity.

We of organized labor are never going to realize our full strength and make our wants and needs truly felt and respected, until we have achieved real solidarity.

There have been some serious and most encouraging efforts put forth in recent months on the part of both the CIO and the AFL to achieve unity. The proposed "no raiding" pact is a tremendous step in the right direction. We of the Electrical Workers are going to try with all our strength to cooperate in this enterprise toward peace, and we hope that our rival groups in the CIO and those unions within the AFL with whom there has been some jurisdictional conflict, will do the same. We believe that they will.

But this step is not enough. We of the CIO and the AFL must not only stop hindering one another, we've got to work together for the good of organized labor and our country as a whole. And the independent labor groups must be encouraged to join with us as well. There is nothing that would demand more respect from business people and corporations, and anti-labor forces at home and abroad, than a united labor movement in the United States and Canada.

I think that organized labor is going to prove itself capable of accomplishing just that. The job can be done, but the sooner the better.

Our nation, in its position of world leadership, has been handed the tremendous task of fighting Communist domination and trying to lead that world to peace.

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