

Protecting Labor's Gains

THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN has been accused of being antagonistic toward labor. The charge is groundless.

The ranks of American labor include more than fifty million workers, some ten or twelve million of whom are organized. It would be absurd to say that the level of loyalty, decency and intelligence in this group is lower than in other groups of citizens of comparable size and diversity.

It would be equally absurd to deny that, under leadership which has shown itself at times to be stupid, vicious, corrupt and unenlightened, certain practices have grown up in organized labor which are distinctly antisocial in nature and incompatible with the national welfare. These are too well known to bear retelling.

It is toward these admitted wrongs that the editor of The Freeman is antagonistic.

Self-styled friends of labor do their cause a disservice when the best they can do in defense is to fall back on the feeble argument that for every wrong committed by organized labor, employers have been guilty of a greater wrong. And to say, as one writer recently said, that while a union member must sometimes pay a racketeering leader to get him a job or an increase in pay he could well afford to do so because of the benefits gained, is worse than no excuse at all; it is an abject confession of guilt.

The editor of The Freeman is not antagonistic toward labor. He merely agrees with the recent statement of Attorney General Biddle that "labor must clean house to protect its social legislation gains against war time and post-war time pressure for repeal of those benefits."

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