

IRR newsletter

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Date: Tuesday, March 23, 1971

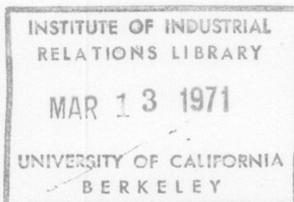
Time: 6:00 PM - No Host Cocktail
7:00 - Dinner - \$4.50
8:00 - Speaker

Place: Mayfair Hotel
1256 West 7th Street
Los Angeles, California

(Free parking in hotel)

Speaker: Mr. Jerome Rosow, Assistant Secretary
of Labor for Policy Development and
Evaluation

Topic: THE CHALLENGE OF THE 70's



Please make reservations by returning the enclosed card or by calling Miss Sonia Pieper at 825-3180 as soon as possible.

NEWS BRIEF ON SPEAKER FOR MARCH Mr. Rosow, who advises the Nixon Administration on manpower policies and planning, is an authority and leading researcher in that field. He is also an outstanding speaker, whose knowledge and background in manpower planning should prove enlightening for those who seek the challenge of the seventies.

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 9, 1971 MEETING

In his stimulating discussion of "class-conscious courts," Charles Hackler, noted Los Angeles labor attorney, said that for many years law was practiced in such a manner that lawyers would work only for people who could pay them. Therefore, they worked only for those who had money. The only exception were personal injury cases, and with the widespread use of the automobile these cases increased rapidly. Furthermore, said Mr. Hackler, judges are lawyers, and most heads of government agencies are lawyers as well. The labor unions, on the other hand, observed that the lawyers most often took positions against them. Therefore, the unions developed "anti-lawyer" attitudes.

Today things are different, however. The area of law is much more institutionalized and the level of sophistication in dealing with labor law matters, on both sides - management as well as labor, is far greater than it was years ago. With the general growth and development of the law, class conscious judges have become a thing of the past. But, said Mr. Hackler, there is a second definition of class, in which a class is any identifiable group of people. And it is this definition that brings us into the area of class action law suits. Formerly, an organization was needed to bind such a group of people as members, but with the development and acceptance by the courts of class action suits this is no longer required.

Historically, sections of statutes protecting individual rights, although they existed, were never used by "little" people in seeking redress. But as more aspects of our life in business, labor, and in daily community affairs are governed by law, the bureaucracies that safeguard those rights are now under scrutiny by persons seeking to protect the rights of the individual. For example, there are class action suits protesting overcharging by tax-cab companies, overselling of tickets to sport events, suits in connection with ecology, and many others. Hackler pointed to the Supreme Court decision in the Gissel Packing Company case, which involved the certification of a union on the basis of signed authorization cards, without an election. This, he said, was another element in the developing law relating to class action suits and the interpretation of decisions in such suits.

Recently new federal court rules have been promulgated that enable the class action approach to law suits. Now there are publicly and privately funded groups designed to help groups of people in class actions, going to the courts to protect their interest. The recent welfare cases in California and the work of Ralph Nader and his group are some examples.

Mr. Hackler concluded by stating that even our law schools now have courses on legal services to the poor, something that was unheard of not too many years ago.

CERTIFICATES AWARD

In our next meeting on March 23, we will honor the Fall, 1970, graduates who were awarded certificates in Industrial Relations. We are looking forward to meeting them and hope that they will join our Association. This is a special occasion for all members to welcome the new graduates.

IMPORTANT

Please note that the March 23rd meeting will be held at the Mayfair Hotel. As many of you will undoubtedly remember, we had to arrange for a last-minute change of location on February 9th because of the earthquake. Hopefully we can use the Mayfair Hotel facilities this time without further trouble.

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