

National labor service

# WORKING FOR LABOR

PROPERTY OF INSTITUTE  
OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
214 CALIFORNIA HALL

the story of the National Labor Service

founded to promote good will among

American workers of all races and religions

# **SPEAKING FOR LABOR**

*"We in the CIO are convinced that with 'Fair and Full Employment' it will be impossible to pit race against race, creed against creed or class against class. Striving for this ideal, we won the battle of production during the war; working toward this ideal in the post-war period, we can win the battle of peace."*

**Philip Murray, President**  
*Congress of Industrial Organizations*

*"The faces of all working men and women must be turned everlastingly against racial and religious discrimination and in favor of freedom, liberty, equality and democracy."*

*"Prejudice and intolerance are crimes against democracy."*

**William Green, President**  
*American Federation of Labor*



## A SERVICE TO LABOR

“To promote good will among American workers of all races and religions”—this is the principle upon which the National Labor Service was founded. Staffed by trade unionists with many years of experience in the labor movement, the National Labor Service operates within the framework of the labor movement itself.

The fight for fair employment practices, both at the point of hiring and on the job, is the direct concern of every working man and woman. This is labor’s fight and labor accepts the challenge.

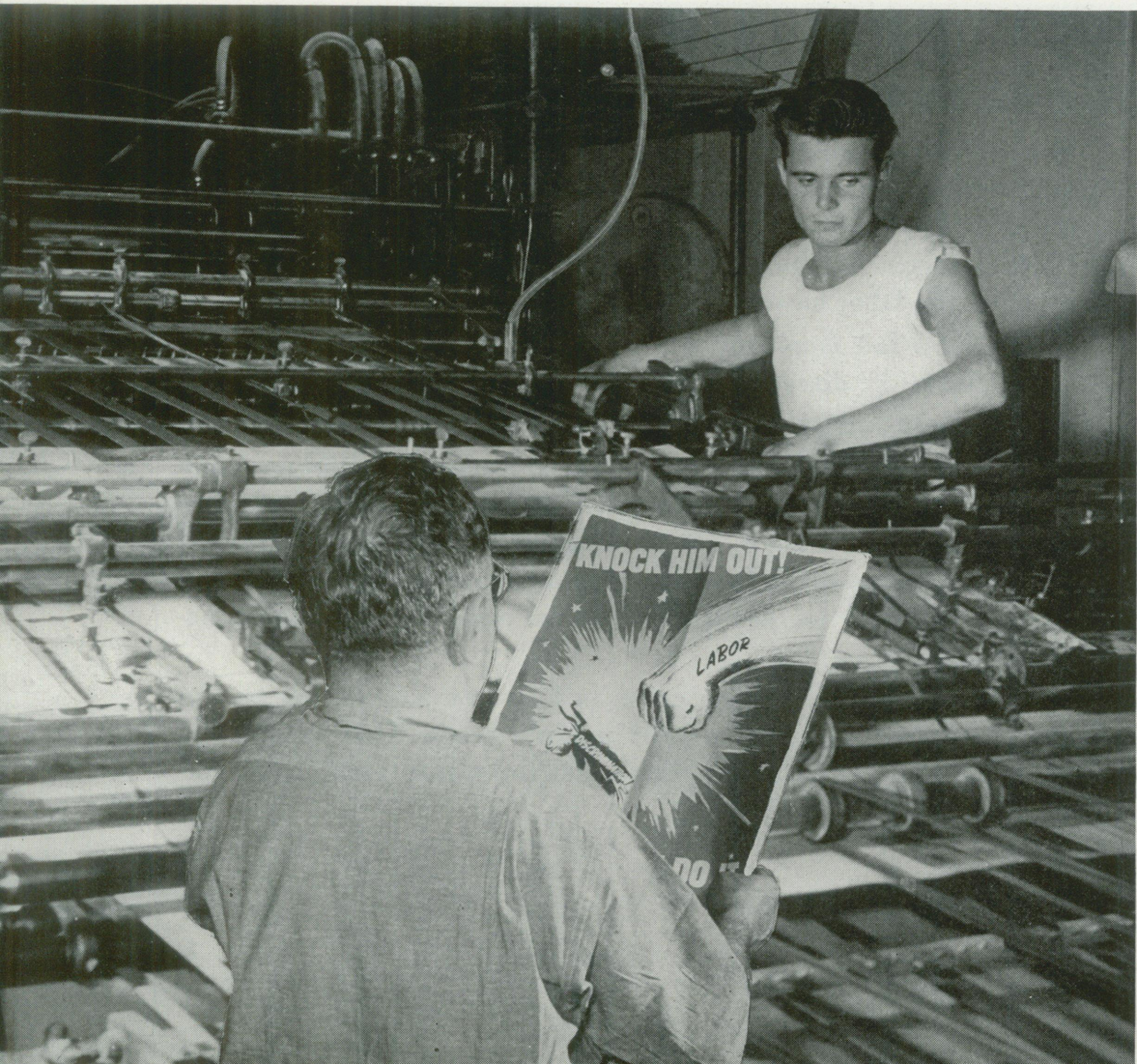
To this end the NLS conducts workers’ education activities on many fronts—in the labor press, in the union halls and at conferences, conventions, institutes and schools. In close cooperation with the educational departments of the unions, it has developed many successful and interest-stimulating techniques for dealing with racial and religious discrimination and prejudice.

The National Labor Service exists to help you in working out an educational program suitable to your union’s needs. This booklet describes the services and materials which the NLS makes available to you and your union.

# LABOR GOES TO PRESS

Hard-hitting materials that roll off the National Labor Service presses include posters like "Knock Him Out," "Wipe Out Discrimination" and "Swat Them All." Unions can make effective use of these posters and the other printed materials available to education departments, organizers and labor editors.

Written, prepared and produced by experts in the field of journalism and education, these materials have been a tremendous help in highlighting labor's own fight against discrimination. Used properly they can help build stronger and better unions.

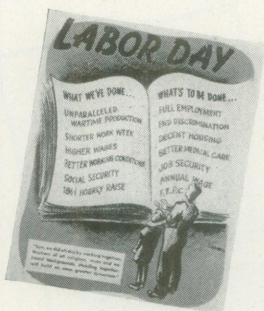
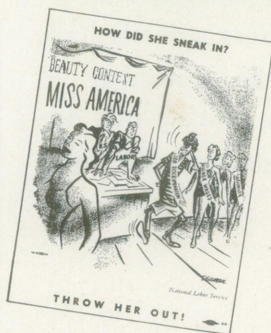




## Aiding labor editors

the NLS has a free press service for editors who regularly receive feature articles, editorials, photomats, and in addition

- monthly cartoons like **THROW HER OUT!**,
- a series of holiday ads that are carried by hundreds of papers,
- a weekly comic strip—"Joe Worker" who is your hero in "The Story of Labor."



**Mimeograph ink** has been the lifeblood of thousands of local unions, because through mimeographed papers and leaflets, millions of trade unionists have become familiar with the workings of the labor movement. In most cases, the first contact a worker has with his union is through his plant union paper or a leaflet handed to him in front of his shop entrance. To bring to these millions of workers the knowledge of labor's fight against discrimination, the National Labor Service now provides stencils with pre-cut cartoons on them for use in shop papers and union leaflets.

These stencils each contain six cartoons. Organizers, editors and educational directors cut from the stencil the cartoon they want and paste it on their own stencil with mimeograph cement. From then on, all that's needed is the hand to turn the machine handle or press the switch. The mimeo machine does the rest.

Sent free to all unions requesting them, these stencils have helped carry the message of labor's efforts in rooting out discrimination to hundreds of shops and locals.





## IN SHOPS AND UNION HALLS

The shop meeting is the basic element of trade unionism. For it is in the shop meeting that the problems of the workers are resolved. And it is the stewards upon whom the main responsibility rests for solving these problems.

Questions of discrimination which arise in the shop must also be answered by the shop stewards. With this in mind, the National Labor Service now has in preparation a manual for shop stewards—a manual to show educational directors and stewards how best to take the materials available in the fight against discrimination and integrate them into the program of the union. The best educational material in the world does no good to anybody if it stays in a closet in the union hall. The new NLS manual will help bring materials out of the closets and into the lives of the union members.

**Anti-discrimination committees** and grievance committees clearly demonstrate the labor movement's sense of responsibility toward its members. Here the problems of their fellow union members are examined by the committee members and solutions worked out within the framework of the union itself.

An increasing number of unions are setting up anti-discrimination committees on national, state and local levels. These committees deal with upgrading, seniority rights and similar questions. In addition, such committees can be the basis for carrying on an active educational program against discrimination and prejudice.

The National Labor Service offers its assistance to any union desiring to establish an anti-discrimination committee. Advice is available on setting up and carrying out programs, as well as supplying the educational materials necessary to make the programs effective and lasting.



# *National Labor Service*

DAVID SIGMAN, *Director*

386 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 5-0181

March 24, 1948


Dear Sirs:

For some time you have been receiving materials issued by the National Labor Service as part of its program in assisting trade unions in their fight against discrimination.

The enclosed pamphlet describes not only the printed materials put out by the National Labor Service, but the other activities in which it engages as a service agency for the organized labor movement.

If there are any comments or suggestions, we should be very glad to receive them from you, and if we can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Fraternally yours,

  
David Sigman  
Director

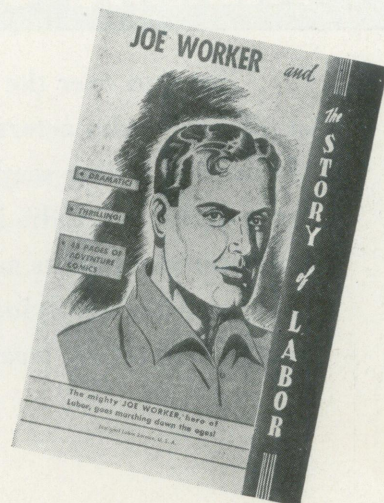
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*To promote good will among American workers of all races and religions*



**50,000,000 comic books** are sold each month in the United States. With the publication of “Joe Worker and The Story of Labor” the message of the American labor movement has been brought into hundreds of thousands of homes.

Hundreds of unions—national, state and local—have distributed “Joe Worker” with their own message imprinted on the back page of the book. In the two years since its first printing “Joe Worker” has proved to be one of the most effective educational and public relations instruments in the field. It is still available through the National Labor Service.



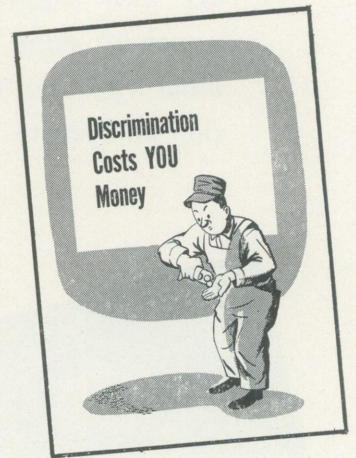


## TALKING UNION

The sign over the studio door lights up—"On The Air." Inside the studio, the radio actors move back and forth from the microphone. But they're not selling soap or toothpaste—they're selling unionism! Today, more and more, radio is becoming an integral part of labor's educational and public relations activity. And the National Labor Service helps in that work by supplying free to unions radio scripts and recordings that can be adapted by local unions for their own use.

## Discrimination Costs You Money,

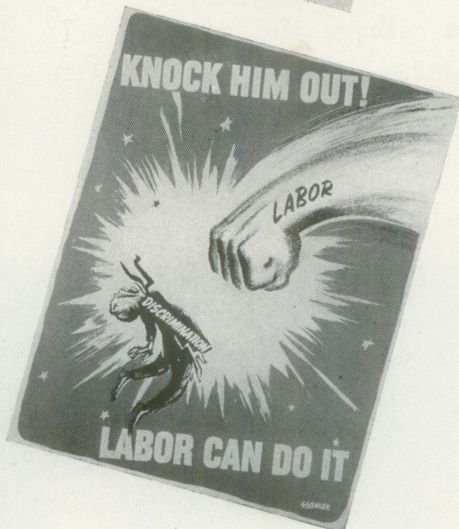
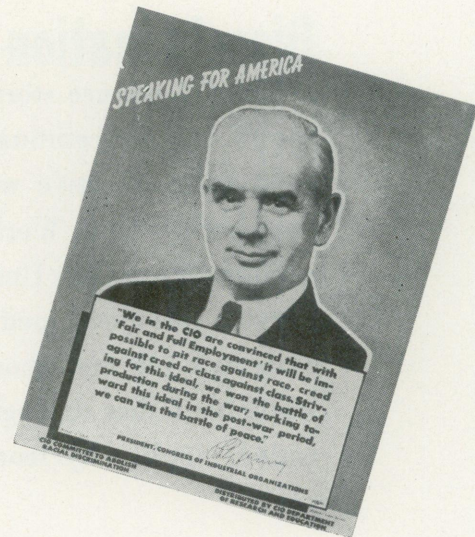
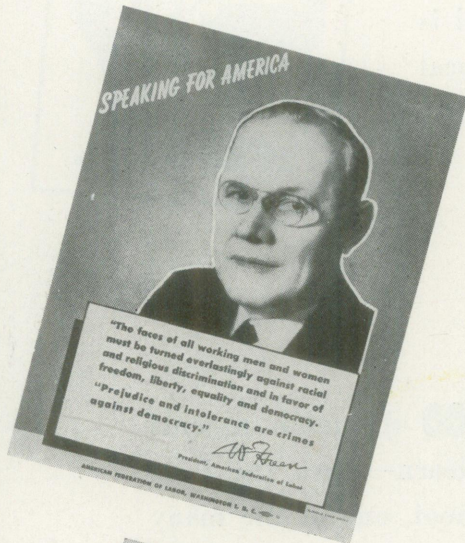
a colorful picture story about a guy named Joe who found that discrimination didn't pay off, becomes even more effective when it carries the imprint of your own union. Working in close cooperation with unions all over the United States, the National Labor Service has developed a wide range of educational materials for the labor movement. This material is available either through international, state and local unions or directly from the National Labor Service.



**Under the spreading chestnut tree** the union students sit. Sit and study and argue and discuss and learn—learn the facts of union life. For this is a resident summer school, one of the many now being conducted by the labor movement at colleges and camps scattered throughout the United States. National Labor Service staff members are available for consultation on programs for schools and institutes, and as staff members at the schools.



**Posters that hang** in your union halls are also supplied by the NLS. Pulling no punches, these posters dramatically present labor's position on fair employment, discrimination and justice on the job.



**GI's by the millions** learned what a "Turnover Talk" was during the war. Today, the labor movement uses the same technique for group discussions at union meetings. The "Turnover Talk," a series of illustrated charts dealing with a particular subject, is mounted on an easel and provides unions with a method whereby comparatively inexperienced people can lead a discussion successfully. A discussion outline and guide is provided with the charts so that the material necessary to carry on the discussion is at hand in a form that is extremely easy to use.

The National Labor Service has available a "Turnover Talk" on discrimination which can be used very effectively to provoke frank discussions on the subject of prejudice.

## The convention hall

is still empty when the National Labor Service kits are placed on the seats. Each kit contains a sample of the NLS publications as well as proofs of cartoons, editorials, comic strip and cartoon stencils. When delegates take their seats they examine the kits, discuss the material and listen to the speaker take up the problems of discrimination.

The National Labor Service Speakers' Bureau supplies unions all over the country with prominent speakers directly from the labor movement or closely associated with it. In addition, displays of NLS material are available for showing at conventions. Staff members act as discussion leaders and resource persons at convention forums on the problems of discrimination.

At all kinds of meetings—national, state or local—NLS is ready to assist by providing speakers and trade union specialists for consultation on discrimination problems, distributing kits and showing displays.

Delegates at conventions consult with NLS representatives on the problems in their organizations and jointly work out proper solutions.





**The sign on the desk** says "Registration" but it means a great deal more. For, in the labor movement, an institute or conference has a tremendous significance. The trade unionists who participate in the work of these meetings come, in many cases, at personal sacrifice and from great distances. But more and more the labor movement is learning the value of these week-end or three-day sessions where people of all races and religions first discuss and then try to work out solutions to their common problems.

The National Labor Service assists the labor movement in arranging and conducting institutes, conferences and seminars. NLS staff members, materials and displays are available to unions that want to take up the problem of discrimination as part of the work of their conferences, or to hold separate institutes on this all-important subject. From program planning to providing speakers, the NLS is on call to the labor movement.

**“Are we fighting** the problem of discrimination in the proper way?” has always been one of the most vexing questions confronting the labor movement. For with the many modern techniques available in this campaign, there is sometimes confusion about which is the best technique for a particular purpose. To help answer this question the National Labor Service last year held the first of a series of conferences devoted to exploring the techniques in fighting discrimination.

Attended by more than fifty leading labor educators from unions and universities all over the United States, the conference took up the role of the labor press, audio-visual techniques, group discussions and the handling of discriminatory acts on local levels.

All the techniques used by the labor movement in fighting discrimination were given a searching, scientific and human analysis. The conclusions drawn by the conference participants are available for study from the National Labor Service. Every trade unionist interested in the field of workers' education can derive great benefit from the work of this NLS conference. The conference filled a long-felt need. Its results warrant careful study.



## **National Labor Service makes available:**

Cartoon Mats for Labor Papers • Comic Books • Comic Strips •  
Display Material • Films and Film Strips • Pamphlets • Posters •  
Pre-Cut Cartoon Stencils • Radio Scripts and Recordings • Re-  
prints • Speakers • Turn-Over Talks.

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### **NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE**

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