

Labor

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April 12, 1945.

Mr. B. E. Hutchinson,
P.O. Box 1919,
DETROIT.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

Just before Mr. Carter left for the east, the other day, he passed on to me your two letters, with their enclosures. After reading both, I passed them on to our editorial writers.

Enclosed is an editorial that resulted from your calling this to our attention.

It seems to me that the measures you propose have nothing to do with collective bargaining. They would impose responsibilities in return for privileges and would cure abuses that have developed. It would seem to me that management's agreement that labor's right to organize and to engage in collective shall be recognized and preserved free from legislative enactments that would interfere with or discourage these objectives would in no sense affect or lessen the need for legislation such as your outline. Nor should management's agreement to such recognition be interpreted as freezing all labor legislation, but at most merely legislation guaranteeing the right of collective bargaining.

I regard the proposed labor-management code as merely an outline of general principles, the working out of which will undoubtedly require considerable amendments, clarification, and, as you point out, legislation to make it entirely effective.

I can see some basis for labor hailing the agreement as a pledge on the part of management to freeze labor legislation with respect to collective bargaining; but I can't see wherein it is justified in claiming it would freeze labor legislation of any type whatsoever.

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I think you have made an important contribution to the solution of this problem by bringing up these points at this time, for an early and thorough discussion should clear the atmosphere and probably lead, at least we all hope, to a workable solution.

Sincerely yours,

J M NORTH, Jr.