

AFBF sees dangers in labor legislation

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By Allan Grant, AFBF President
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hot on the heels of the reelection of George Meany as president of the AFL-CIO has come a renewed, all-out effort to get a drastically revised National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

The NLRA is the federal law that gives labor unions the right to bargain collectively with employers. It spells out unfair practices on the part of unions and employers and sets up administrative procedures for the conduct of employee elections to determine union representation as well as the

questions of changing or ending union representation.

Organized labor's main goal during 1978 is passage by the United States Senate of S. 1883. It is clear that the Carter Administration will be in Labor's corner, fighting with them all the way. In a speech at the recent AFL-CIO convention in Los Angeles, Vice President Walter Mondale said, "I want you to know that this Administration has no higher priority this year than passage of labor law reform in the Senate." With that statement, the Vice President elevated the so-called "reform" legislation passed by the House to a status it did not appear to have up to now.

Among other things, S. 1883 would "pack" the National Labor Relations Board by increasing it from five to seven members. The Board is the semi-judicial agency that sets policy and oversees the administration of the NLRA. It is not difficult to predict who would have the principal influence on these appointments or what orientation the new board members would assume.

Why are the unions going all out for this bill? The unions are in real trouble. They have been losing membership. They are a smaller portion of the total work force than in many years, 20 percent or less. They rank very low in public esteem. They are losing more representation elections than they are winning.



Allen Grant

Decertifications have increased 350 per cent over the past 13 years.

The unions have made it clear than one of the main purposes in changing the nation's labor act is to make it easier for them to force unions on employees and

employers in the South. The ultimate aim of Big Labor is to repeal Section 14b of the Taft-Hartley Act, which permits states to enact right-to-work laws. It is these laws that forbid closed shops or compulsory unionism.

For the 2.8 million member families of Farm Bureau and for the millions of other Americans concerned about organized labor's already existing monopoly power, the battle lines are drawn, and the United States Senate will be put to the test.

Veteran Washington observers believe that the forces against S. 1883 can now count on about 32 votes. Another 30 votes or so are almost certain to favor the bill. It will be the 30 to 35 uncommitted Senators that will mean the difference between victory or defeat for organized labor.

The issue is likely to be decided on which side executes the most effective

Senate letter writing campaign. Mountains of mail can be expected from Big Labor and its allies. Whether opposing forces can generate a matching effort remains to be seen, but that is what it will take to defeat S. 1883.



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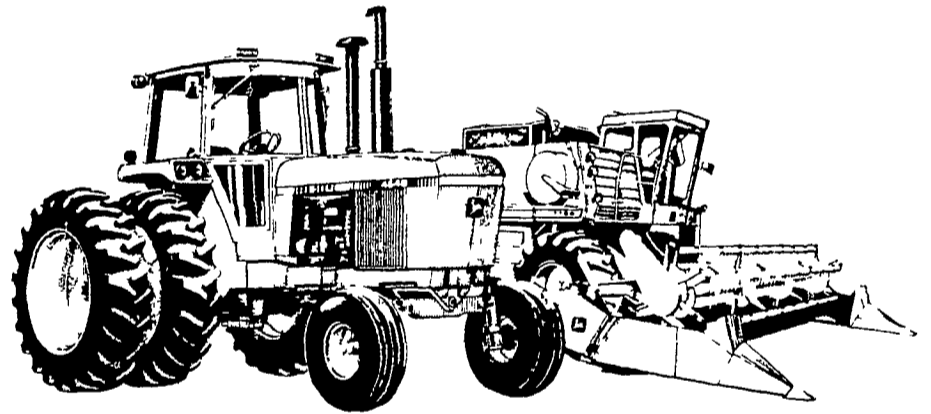
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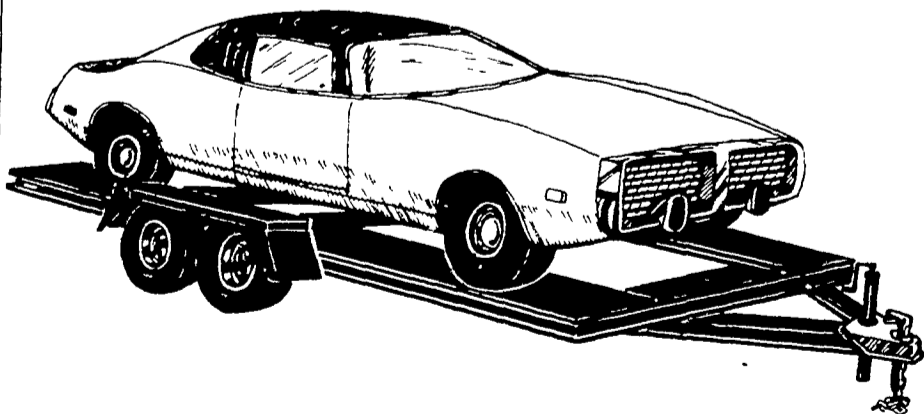
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