THE SEMINARIAN

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FROM YE | | | | Herb Reichert

The whole of American industry is being seriously disrupted by the nation-wide cutbreak of strikes. Whether or not this situation is a sympton of the inability of private capitalism to be harmonized with a society of freeden and equal opportunity is too early to determine as yet. Nevertheless, the Church is squarely confronted with the issues involved. The at least tacit approval by the Church of the "ideals" of big business has developed it (the Church) into a middleclass, stagmant institution, justifying its apathy regarding deplorable social conditions by meuthing the stock phrases of "they're too lazy", "they could work if they se desire", and "all they

want is charity". Labor is on the move, growing more powerful every day, and it is significant that the Church has not yet grasped the full import of this new economic and social complexion which is coming into being. How disastreus this will be to the future of the Church can only be guessed at new. But if it is to survive, the Church must wake up to the new conditions and realize that the primary demands of labor are not aimed at the destruction of big business but are demands for justice in wages and working conditions. The principles of Christianity must be applied to effect a proper balance between the demands of both labor and management. This is our task, and we cannot remain as we now are.

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THE MINISTER'S PURPOSE, OUTLOOK, and OBJECTIVE,
By William Albright

As a Christian minister I an entering a vecation in which I shall have many responsibilities. My first responsibility is to God. After I am assured that what I am doing is in accordance with His will, my next responsibility is to the members of my congregation. When I am called by a congregation and accept the call I put myself at the disposal of that congregation. My time is no longer my own whenever it can be used to care for the spiritual life of that group. All clse is secondary. Community activities which do not pertain directly to the life of my own congregation must take an inconspicuous place. Even the advancement of my own education must not take precedence over the work with my own people. I am hired to preach the Gospel to them, to educate their children for church nembership, to administer the sacraments, to perform marriage and fumeral coremonies. I am expected to visit them in sickness and to confort them in sorrow. They are always my primary concorn.

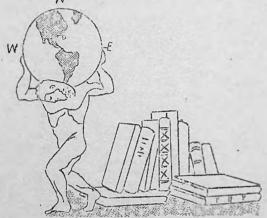
In the matter of getting new members into the Church, besides the children of members, my responsibility is not greater than that of any consecrated layman in my congregation. We should all be on the alert for people who have no church hones and should try to bring them into our followship. But it should not be my personal responsibility as a regular parish minister to assume the duties of a full-time missionary. That is the task of specialists in the field of missionary work just as the treatment of certain diseases is the work of specialists in the modical professions (continued on next page - 2)

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As a parish minister I am a general practitioner and so long as I am in the regular ministry I cannot affort to devote a dispreportionate amount of my time to any one phase of the ministry for in so doing I would not be fulfilling all of my obligations.

As a private citizen I have a right and, in fact, a responsibility to held very definite political and economic views and also to express them in the drawing room or at the dinner table. But I have no right to bring political or economic issues into the pulpit on Sunday norming for in doing this I would be abusing my privilege as a minister. Certainly in expounding the Gospel the correct attitudes toward issues of the day will be brought out but it is the duty of the man in the pew to apply these attitudes. It is not for me to tell him from the pulpit how to vote or how to feel about strikes.

In my own daily life I know it will be impossible to please everybody. I would rather feel that I was doing the best I could and following what I believed to be God's will than feel that I was comprenising in order to win popular favor or approval. Let a choice had to be made I would rather be respected than a hail fellow



well not. At any rate, I would like to aim at being able to say to my congregation, with St. Paul, "The things which ye both learned and received and heard and say in me, these things do."

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"It is undeniable that this civilization of our has to learn or perish, and it is World Student Relief's privilege and the the eppertunity of its supporters to enable students to learn."

"The World Student Service Fund was created by the National Inter-Collegiate Christian Council (national organization of the Student YM and YVCA) as its emergency humanitarian arm in 1937 with the outbreak of the war in China. In 1940 its operations were extended to Europe with the coming of war to that continent. Its base was broadened to include steadily to include other sponsoring novements, namely, the Student Volunteer Movement, the Interseminary Movement, University Commission of the Council of Church Boards of Education, Student Service of America, Inc., and Binai Birith Hillel Foundation.

"Relief for students in China is administered through the indigenous National Student Relief Committee, and in Europe through the European Student Relief Fund, which is the united relief enterprise of the world's Student Christian Federation, International Student Service, and Pax Romana, as Those various national and continental relief bodies have been organized and coordinated in World Student Relief since 1943, with headquarters in Geneva.

"The minimal needs of war-victimized students around the world for the current year have been estimated as more than \$2,000,000. by the officers or World Student Relief, for the most economical program of rehabilitation and reconstruction. It is general assumed that one-half of total student needs must be met by the confertable and privileged American community, both academic and non-academic. "
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"Steaks alive"

by Donald C. Book



In the past several months the labor situation in the United States has caused much concern in the minds of all thinking people, We as minister's cannot afford to overlook the seriousness of the situa-Today the total number of strikers in the country stands at about one and a half million! This means one a half million people - people to whom many of us are and will be ministering. And though it is not our duty to preach on behalf of a particular class or group of people, nor is it necessarly our duty to support a group of striking workers even though their cause be needy and just, it is a major part of our tasks to know and to try to understand the problems of our people, And so we are presenting a case for Labor - the millions of workers who earn their daily bread in the factories, shops, mills, mines, refineries, etc. Let us give particular attention to

the 190,000 General Meters Workers, mostly in Detreit, who have been on strike since November 21, 1945. This strike is the eldest of the existing strikes, and countless thousands of other workers expect its outcome to greatly influence the outcome of most of the existing labor disputes.

The United Automobile Workers employed at General Motors are striking primarily for a thirty per-cent hourly wage increase. When we consider the UAV's argument, we must agree that the workers need a substantial wage increase. To begin with, the cost of living during the war increased much more rapidly than the worker's pay. This is a fact whether or not the casual observer chooses to believe it! ing to official figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, the average city family ended 1945 "in the red" to the extent of from seventy-five to three hundred and forty-six dellars, The figures show clearly that taxes and living costs increased much more sharply than wages. In cities like Detroit, where living costs are considerably higher than the average recorded for the nation by the Bureau, the figures for 1945 show a much more unfavorable balance against the worker's income. Now, and since the war has ended, working hours are drastically reduced, and the ending of premium time has slashed deeply into the take-home pay of the majority of industrial workers, while the cost of living continues to rise! During the war the UAW urged and almost insisted that its members make weekly, substantial purchases of war bonds, and through the years of the war the minute-man flag flow over the GH plants in Detroit showing that near 100% of their employees were making systematic purchases of bonds. But even before the long strike had begun last November, many of the GM workers and their families had to fall back on their bonds to meet the rising costs of living. Now, what is left in bonds is the chief means fof support for the workers who have been striking for nore than two nonths.

Beyond this it must be remembered that the automotive industry is a seasonal industry. In peace time by mid-spring all orders for new cars are usually completed; in the surmer a skeleton crew of workers begins to roteol and set-up for the new models. Through the months of June, July, Augus' and most of September seventy-five to ninety per-cent of the automobile workers are unemployed. The striking GH weerkers and their union leaders are more aware of this than anyone else. Workers who had to struggle to keep out of "the red" with year around employment during the war must prepare now for periodical seasons of unemployment. The hourly wages of auto workers are not indicative of their yearly carnings. The men who make the cars must be able to spread out the earnings of the working menths so that they will have support in the lean menths of the summer.

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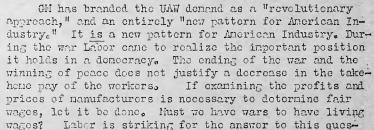
Arguing for the cause of the strikers would be useless if the General Motors Corporation were financially unable to pay thewage increase denanded. But GA has flatly told President Truman's fact-finding panel that it does not claim inability to pay the wage increase. Walter Morritt, representing GM, told the panel that "we are not pleading poverty. We are not pleading inability to pay." He warned that if the panel attempts to go into GM's prefit and price position in seeking the truth, the corporation would quit the hearings.

Walter Reuther, Vice-President of the U.AW, replied that the workers are "not asking to set prices, and we are not asking to limit profits." He also cleared the air of the 30% figure. "The only way we will take less is to be shown that we can't get 30% without raising the prices of cars. Our boys are walking the streets in Detroit in zero weather. The boys on the bricks know the score. They don't want ten cents put in one pocket and have fifteen cents taken out of the other by higher prices."

The panel recommended a seventeen and one half per-cent hourly wage increase in their report to President Truman. The corporation quickly termed the report as "unacceptable in full or in part." The union began a therough study of the report and

finally accepted the decision of the fact-finding board, but because of the corporation's refusal to consider the

report, the strike lies deadlocked.



tion. Labor is using its only tool of defence. Labor is presenting its case legally and democratically. Democracy, both political and economic, will grow strong and flower as jobs at good wages give all our people good health and a larger stake in their country's welfare.

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WSSF Program - centinued from page 2)

These three paragraphs will help to give you a faint picture of what the WSSF is and what it is up against in the present year, 1946. It will also give you an idea of why the U.S. goal has been quadrupled (from \$250,000, to \$1,000,000) and why our goal here at the Soninary

has been put at \$1,000.

This year's drive, as was said in the December issue, will extend from January through June for it was decided that the goal of \$1000, can best be not through pledges, whoreby the individual contributions can be budgeted over this time. The goal of \$1000, broken down into individual giving is about \$17, per member of our Within the next week, solicitors Sominary family. from the various classes of the Seminary will visit each one of us of the Seninary in order to ask for pledges. Contributions need not be made at that time, but anytime during the next six menths. Any alumni who are still students at other institutions are asked to join in the You may designate your method of payment to the solicitor and he will call upon you at that time.

Let us rejoice in the premise of World Student Relief, that men and women with minds and bodies saved have their hearts renewed too. WHERE IS YOUR



.e.Life at Seminary can be one rich experience after another.

NeeWe should take advantage of the privilege, which is curs, to attend CHAPEL services in the morning and VESPER services at 10 P.M. of If your interest in worship is neglected here, how can you honestly ask others to attend your church. You may evon forget to attend your own services THEM WHATEL