

Morally sound . . . .

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# Morally Sound

Religious Leaders  
View the  
Union Shop



"THE overwhelming majority of . . . Catholics justify the union shop in theory and practice and oppose the present campaign to outlaw it. At least a dozen archbishops and bishops have publicly taken stands against state 'right to work' laws. The Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington has similarly condemned them, as has the director of the Institute of Social Order at St. Louis University. The vast majority of Catholic social scientists who have written on 'right to work' laws have denounced them as mischievous at best and at the worst as dangerous and pernicious."

—*Rev. Benjamin Masse, S. J.,  
Associate Editor  
"America," National Catholic  
Weekly Review*

# CATHO

"'RIGHT TO WORK' laws are immoral according to Catholic social teaching . . . All good men and women, Protestants, Jews and Catholics, should seek by every just means to get 'right to work' laws repealed and should oppose them whenever they are proposed . . . The 'right to work' bills don't guarantee the individual any right at all. They provide him with an opportunity to work alone, to work at less than union wages . . . The 'right to work' laws may will be an invitation to disaster. . . ."

—*Rev. William J. Kelley,  
O.M.I., LL.D.  
Former Chairman, New York  
State Labor Relations  
Board*

“STRIPPED of deceptive wording and deprived of prejudicial catchwords used to defend them, the so-called ‘right to work’ laws lose their power of appeal to the normally intelligent objective observer . . . [‘Right to work’ laws] distort the dignity of the individual person to such a degree that the end result of their universal application could be nothing short of anarchy.”

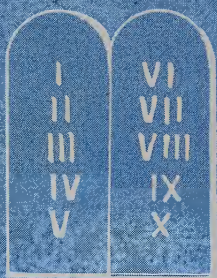
—*Father William J. Smith, S.J.,  
Director  
St. Peter’s Institute of  
Industrial Relations*

LIC



“THE sponsors of the proposed [‘right to work’] legislation claim that a fundamental right of the individual is invaded if he must join a union. I do not agree with this viewpoint. It is neither immoral nor unethical to require union membership for the common good of the group.”

—*Archbishop Henry J. O’Brien  
Connecticut*



# JEW

**“THE** term ‘right to work’ in these statutes is a fraud and a misnomer to conceal their true purpose. These statutes do not guarantee anyone the right to work but represent merely an attempt to capitalize on the hopes raised by a ‘right to work’ slogan in order to restrict or outlaw all forms of union security arrangements worked out in collective bargaining by labor and management.”

—*Dr. Israel Goldstein*  
*Rabbi of the Congregation*  
*B’nai Jeshurun*  
*New York, New York*

**“‘RIGHT TO WORK’** legislation, in our opinion, is a misnomer whose purpose is to camouflage an attempt to undermine and weaken responsible democratic trade unionism. Experience has shown that under the guise of freedom of decision for each individual, the concept of collective bargaining is destroyed. Honest, democratic and clean labor unionism is essential for American democracy.”

—*Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman,*  
*President*  
*Rabbinical Council of*  
*America*



# ISH

“‘RIGHT TO WORK’ bills would prohibit the union shop and other union security agreements that have two beneficent purposes: (1) protecting employee organizations against efforts by employers to destroy them, and (2) insuring that the costs of a union’s activity are shared by all who benefit. ‘Right to work’ laws do not, in fact, guarantee the right to work, as any unemployed worker can testify.”

—*Dr. Joachim Prinz, President  
American Jewish Congress*

“EVERY man in a free society should have the right to work. But every man, once he finds employment, also has the moral duty to join an organization of fellow workers which achieved for him through its organized efforts the favorable conditions he enjoys in his employment and affords him protection for the future. Everyone is morally obligated to share in the responsibilities if he wishes to avail himself of the rewards of collective effort. The theoretic ‘right to work’—which no one questions—is qualified by man’s moral responsibility to assume the obligations which assure the very things which he seeks in his employment.”

—*Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio*



# PRO

“THE ‘right to work’ laws are a virtual conspiracy of the crafty, the ignorant, or the misguided to subvert industrial peace, exploit men’s need to work, and deluge the community with industrial irresponsibility. ‘Right to work’ laws do not create jobs; they only victimize the worker and make his organization ineffective.”

—*Rev. Dr. Walter G. Muelder*  
*Dean and Professor of Social Ethics*  
*Boston University School of Theology*

“THUS, while people do not usually like compulsion in any form, they may accept some degree of it in order to achieve values which cannot be secured without it. They recognize that in any social order the exercise of individual freedoms may be self-defeating, and that freedom must of necessity in some circumstances be exercised in terms of group decisions . . . It is the opinion of the Executive Board of the Division of Christian Life and Work that union membership as a basis of continued employment should be neither required nor forbidden by law; the decision should be left to agreement by management and labor through the process of collective bargaining . . .”

—*Statement Approved by the Executive Board*  
*The Division of Christian Life and Work*  
*National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA*

# TESTAMENT

“SO-CALLED ‘right to work’ laws are fraudulent. They are neither intended nor designed to guarantee work or to establish the right to work. These laws are sponsored by the same reactionary forces that once sought to destroy labor organizations.

Americans believe in the right to work. They resent the parasite, and see work as an obligation. But just as the communist deliberately misuses such worthy terms as ‘peace,’ ‘democracy,’ and ‘justice,’ so, too, clever, crafty and highly paid public relations experts have designated these endeavors to weaken labor as ‘right to work’ laws. They would return to the jungle of industrial struggle, instead of marching forward to the bargaining table with its sensible and scientific cooperation.”

—*Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam,*  
*President*  
*Council of Bishops of the*  
*Methodist Church*

“**W**HETHER there is a union shop or not should be left to agreement by management and labor through the process of collective bargaining. The so-called ‘right to work’ laws are, in my opinion, a hindrance to freedom because they limit the scope of collective bargaining. They actually make the open shop compulsory. In doing so they deny the social values which are obtainable through the properly safeguarded union shop.”

—*Rev. Dr. J. Edward Carothers,*  
*Pastor*  
*First Methodist Church*  
*Schenectady, New York*



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**INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT  
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**815 Sixteenth Street, N. W.  
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