

We believe that the Industrial Safety Board as constituted in the original 1941 legislation should be allowed to continue to promulgate and adopt, after public hearings, such regulations as they deem appropriate for the protection of the lives and health of all workers in places of private employment.

The current \$300 maximum on fines has had a very limited deterrent effect on violators. The practice of violators in forfeiting collateral has become a public scandal. We advocate mandatory court action with denial of permission to forfeit collateral in all cases where personal or fatal injuries are involved. We also urge raising the maximum fine per violation to \$1,500 and heavier fines for repeated violations.

In the past 25 years the responsibility for literally dozens of fatal accidents have been met simply through the callous forfeiture of \$300 collateral. Simple justice contradicts this solution to basic problems of health and life itself.

The 89th Congress passed amendments to the District of Columbia Minimum Wage law making substantial improvements in wages and extension of coverage to workers in the District of Columbia. We are sure that this committee will continue to recognize its responsibility to those workers in private employment by updating the Industrial Safety Law.

The Public Health, Education and Welfare Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia held hearings on an identical industrial safety bill on March 10, 1967. There is a reasonable expectation that the Senate committee will favorably report the legislation. Favorable action by the House committee would help to insure action on this important legislation.

We are grateful for this opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee. We urge prompt action on this industrial safety legislation which vitally affects the lives of many workers in the Washington metropolitan area.

Mr. McGUIGAN. The statement is very brief, Mr. Chairman, so with your permission I will read it.

Mr. SISK. All right.

Mr. McGUIGAN. My name is F. Howard McGuigan. I am a legislative representative for the AFL-CIO. I am here today representing the AFL-CIO and the Greater Washington Central Labor Council.

We wish to compliment the Chairman of the Subcommittee, the Honorable B. F. Sisk, on his foresight and interest in introducing this pending industrial safety bill, H.R. 1264.

The AFL-CIO represents approximately 125,000 members in the Washington metropolitan area most of whom work either permanently or in various stages in their careers in the Nation's Capital. We are therefore pleased that this proposed legislation has reached the hearing stage and we urge the Committee to recommend its passage with a few modifications.

It is clear that the intent of the legislation passed by Congress in 1941 intended that all employees in private industry be adequately protected by having a safe place of employment. Subsequent rulings of the Corporation Council have narrowed coverage of this safety legislation. As a result of these narrow, restrictive, administrative interpretations of the word "industrial," only workers employed in manufacturing and construction now are assured of the protections of the safety law.

We are sure that Congress intended no such interpretation and we believe that the Congress should move expeditiously to eliminate this injustice.

We believe that the Industrial Safety Board as constituted in the original 1941 legislation should be allowed to continue to promulgate and adopt, after public hearings, such regulations as they deem appropriate for the protection of the lives and health of all workers in places of private employment.