

Again, the companies take the position that this is a cost and something they can't afford. It is bad enough the burden is placed upon them to make the collections and do the paperwork and take care of the creditors. So, there isn't too much of that.

As I say, in a number of cases they just discharge them, sometimes on one garnishment, and other companies have a policy of perhaps three garnishments and then the employee loses his job.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. There is another subject that I want to bring up, but first I will yield to Mr. Annunzio.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I take this opportunity to welcome the distinguished president of the United Steelworkers of America to our committee hearings and also to commend him for his very forthright position with reference to H.R. 11601.

As a former legislative representative of the United Steelworkers for the State of Illinois, I am naturally tremendously delighted to welcome you, Mr. Abel, to our committee, and I would like to state for the record that Mr. Abel, as the leader of 1,250,000 steelworkers, represents the American dream.

Mr. Abel is a steelworker—he started to work in a steel plant, and through the processes of industrial democracy, he now has risen to the position of the head of one of the largest industrial unions in America.

We know in today's union structure an industrial union does more than protect the rights of the workers as far as wages and hours are concerned. The union also contributes to American industrial society by educating and protecting the workers regarding the rights they have under our Constitution.

Mr. Abel, I am tremendously pleased with the position you took with reference to the garnishment section of H.R. 11601, and I know that my other colleagues on the subcommittee who cosponsored the bill with our distinguished and charming chairman, Mrs. Sullivan from Missouri, also appreciate your forthright position.

As I stated to Mr. Wirtz, the Secretary of Labor, who is on the Committee which the President ordered to conduct a study some 5 months ago for garnishment of wages, I know that you are a vice president of the AFL-CIO, you are a member of that executive board, and you are truly a representative of labor appearing before this committee. The legislative director of the AFL-CIO, who appeared before this committee recently, stated that the national labor movement of America had no official labor policy with reference to garnishment, but I know that every State labor federation in the country has formulated a position and that we are against garnishment.

I know that my colleagues who sponsored this bill would be grateful for an official statement from the national AFL-CIO and we are tremendously grateful for your very forthright position on the garnishment provisions.

Mr. Abel, for the benefit of the committee can you tell us if the steelworkers union has an education program?

Mr. ABEL. Yes, Mr. Annunzio, we do have a very good one, I think, I would like to say that the steelworkers—one of the first things that Philip Murray did in establishing the steelworkers union was to set up an educational department and employ an educational director. We have since that time expanded our efforts, both in an attempt to bring