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Every Strike Now Is a Blow Against Labor

If the heads of the great labor organizations of the country, together with the American Federation of Labor, act with wisdom, **THEY WILL RESOLUTELY FROWN UPON PROPOSALS COMING UP FROM SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS TO STRIKE AT THIS TIME.**

The confusion and misconception incident to making the transition from war to peace is not an unnatural condition, and to make the transition with as little disturbance as possible, either economic, social or political, requires whole-hearted co-operation all along the line, universal sacrifices by many and the employment of the highest intelligence of the nation.

What the nation is trying to do is return to a normal basis as soon as possible, to adjust and readjust its complicated machinery upon bases of fairness to individuals, groups of individuals, states, sections and to the united nation. If this group or that—from motives not of justice, but of advantage—cease to work, or if the trade or division of labor or public utility ceases to function, **THEN THE TASK OF MAKING ANY READJUSTMENT INTELLIGENTLY AND FAIRLY IS RENDERED DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE.**

The people need to realize that the problem of peace are more difficult than those of war, and if there are people who do not know that the obligations of peace are quite as solemn and inviolable as those of war, their patriotism is of a thin and worthless quality.

The multitude of difficulties with which the country is struggling must be dealt with collectively and separately. They are all related in some degree. But it will require time and patience, as well as intelligence, to deal with them in a way to reach permanent, just and satisfactory remedies. Nearly every condition which evokes complaint is cumulative of other conditions.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THERE IS NO CLASS OR GROUP, TRADE OR ORGANIZATION, THAT IS NOT MORE OR LESS EMBARRASSED BY THE HIGH COST OF LIVING and other temporary conditions incident to the war itself and the readjustment now in progress.

It is no time for any class or group to be giving ultimatums to the public or to the public's government, threatening strikes or demanding concessions or policies that effect the whole nation. That is not only the last word in folly, but is unpatriotic almost the point of treason.

The adjustment of prices, salaries, wages and all other elements and incidents affecting transportation must come, but they must come in connection with similar adjustments in productive lines. **AND WITH THE**

RIGHTS OF THE ULTIMATE CONSUMER ALWAYS FAIRLY CONSIDERED.

Moreover, all demands which affect the public or government must be subjected to intelligent and fair investigation which will accord full consideration to every other interested affected. It is not possible to grant the arbitrary demands of any group independent of their relation to other groups. **ALL MUST BE CONSIDERED ALIKE.**

NO GROUP IS ENTITLED TO CONSIDERATION THAT OTHER GROUPS MAY NOT RECEIVE and any government that would countenance such special treatment would not only be unfair, but imperious. But its claims must be subjected to a fair test in consideration with the interests of the whole mass. Otherwise it is not seeking justice but an arbitrary advantage that will invariably fail.

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