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INDUSTRIAL NEWS LETTER

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SCHOOL VS. JOBS

"Any employment that deprives children of education to which every child is entitled, disturbs the public conscience," writes Elizabeth S. Johnson in the January issue of "The Child", official publication of the U.S. Children's Bureau.

With this in mind, it is startling to note that, in Connecticut, the number of teen-agers at work was far greater in 1948 than in 1940.

According to a report from the State Department of Education, working papers for 19,896 boys and girls over 16 were issued from July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1941; while working papers for 28,492 were issued for the same period, 1947-48.

Believing that every child has a right to a satisfactory school experience, we are reluctant to see Connecticut youth, in large numbers, facing what Miss Johnson calls "the competition of occupational life" without completing high school.

Many children in Connecticut leave school for work, while others are both in school and working part-time. In the peak year of 1942-43, forty-nine percent of those applying for their first working papers left school, while fifty-one percent were both in school and working part-time, according to Miss Ethyl M. Francis, Bureau of Youth Services, State Department of Education. At the present time, thirty-five percent of those who go to work

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for the first time are leaving school, and sixty-five percent are still in school and working.

Realizing that the double load of school plus a job may place undue strain on young people, New York has taken the lead by recently enacting a law to regulate the combined hours of school and work for 16 and 17-year old boys and girls.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM

The main features of the program for social and labor legislation advocated by Governor Chester Bowles, as reported in his inaugural address, call for:

1. Extension of unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation benefits to workers not covered.
2. Inclusion of cash-sickness benefit provisions in our social insurance plan.
3. Liberalization of old age assistance.
4. Strengthening of the Connecticut school system.
5. Help for the Mental Hospitals.
6. New Housing program.
7. Overall state minimum wage law with a 75¢ minimum hourly wage.
8. Revision of Mediation and Arbitration service.
9. Equal pay for men and women doing the same work.

## WORLD PEACE

"Our responsibility as individuals is to demonstrate that democracy exists in this country, and to make improvements where we fail," said Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, before the Service Bureau for Women's Organizations in Hartford, on January 13th, 1949. Mrs. John J. Wrinn, of Naugatuck, represented The Consumers' League at the meeting.

Calling attention to accomplishments within the United Nations' framework, Mrs. Roosevelt spoke especially about the Declaration of Human Rights, the Food and Agricultural Organization and the International Labor Organization, the latter having "worked a long time and produced valuable results".

In describing present conditions in Europe, Mrs. Roosevelt reported that a workingman in France has to spend "as much as eighty percent of his wages on food". She also told the audience that within the occupied countries there are some areas where "fifty percent of the children have tuberculosis" as an aftermath of the war.

Consumers' League members will be interested to know that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt is one of the vice-presidents of the National Consumers' League.

Any of our members wishing to attend the Service Bureau meetings are urged to get in touch with our Secretary, at the Consumers' League Office, for information regarding program and tickets.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

National Consumers' League is one of twelve organizations supporting the "Conference on Unfinished Business in Social Legislation", to be held in Washington, D.C., February 7th and 8th.

## CASH SICKNESS BENEFITS

Legislation is being proposed to provide cash sickness benefits for workers in Connecticut.

"Sick-pay benefits provide partial wage-loss compensation for limited periods to workers who are unable to earn their customary wages, because of non-occupational accident or illness," according to the definition by the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies.

The need to protect wage earners against complete loss of income by illness is widely recognized. Through workmen's compensation laws and unemployment compensation legislation, workers already have some protection against the hazards of injury and unemployment. Compensation for workers in case of sickness seems equally important.

Rhode Island, New Jersey and California have such legislation.

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