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Handbook of Federal Labor Legislation, by Elsie Gluck

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If this publication were well organized and carefully indexed it might be a valuable volume. As it stands it is only an accumulation of federal statutes, somewhat kindred in subject and remotely related to the title.

The volume includes: Child labor laws, eight-hour laws, social security laws, laws relating to public contracts, the Vinson-Trammel (profit limitation) act and amendments, employer liability laws, including liability of the Federal government as an employer, laws dealing with wages on public works construction and work on contracts with the government, Railway labor acts, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and others too numerous to mention. Unfortunately the work is neither well organized, nor well indexed. Still, it's a lot of law for 40¢.


As the title indicates, this bulletin deals with statutory labor standards affecting federal work contracts and other projects financed in whole or part by the United States. The standards are made effective either as express or implied terms of the contracts, or as conditions to loans, grants-in-aid, or subsidies.

The bulletin consists of twenty-one sections, and discusses the labor standards provisions in the following situations: The eight-hour day law, prevailing wage law (Davis-Bacon Act), anti-kick back law, workmen's compensation, safety and accident prevention, citizenship requirements on American vessels, government contracts for supplies, bituminous coal act of 1937, leases of government mineral land, the Merchant Marine Act, federally-aided road construction and contracts, the emergency public works program, federally-aided housing projects and rental housing projects insured by F. H. A., projects aided by the R. E. A. and the F. S. A., the Sugar act of 1937, and the emergency relief, N. Y. A. and C. C. C. programs.

The purpose of this publication was primarily to inform workers and union representatives of the rights these laws grant to labor. With that view, the writer summarized the important provisions of each of the above topics, clearly and without unnecessary detail, setting out the work and workers covered by the act, the agency charged with its administration, the remedies provided, and the proper steps to take in securing their benefits (i.e., what to include in a petition, where to file it, what administrative agency to consult, etc.). The penalties
imposed on employers for violating the labor standards acts are also summarized. Although no cases or administrative decisions are cited, the appropriate United States Code sections for each topic are given, and sources where further information may be obtained are indicated.

Attorneys will find in this bulletin a handy, authoritative reference. The publication is issued in loose-leaf form to permit revisions and additions as new legislation and regulations are adopted.