

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.

Some reasons in favor of H.R. Bill 7756.

1. Because there is a wide spread dissatisfaction with existing labor laws as shown by discontent, strikes and violence causing great misery and loss.
2. Because of the growing discontent among farmers as witnessed by their various organizations; their protests against unequal burdens in taxation; discriminating charges in transportation and exorbitant charges by middlemen in disposing of their commodities.
3. Because the business men and business men require a just and more satisfactory settlement of differences with those with whom they deal and upon whose labor and products they depend.
4. Because it is expected that this commission will be composed of experts, the ablest and best of each class named, bringing into conference representative men of labor, agriculture and business whose duties will be to recommend laws looking toward a more just distribution of the burdens and benefits of our self-government.
5. Because our laws have not kept abreast with the rapid pace of development. New conditions confront us on every hand in the massing of labor and capital; in new improvements of husbandry, (making great changes in Agricultural pursuits); in the mode of manufacturing, transportation, travel and intercommunication: all have revolutionized within a generation. We have been offering premiums for inventions, discovery and developments. We have had ten thousand men burning midnight oil for miles later saving

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night oil inventing labor saving machines and devices of all kinds until we have changed the whole order of industrial pursuits, but we have offered no premiums for talent or energy, established no commissions to bring up our laws to meet these new conditions; hence there is friction, discontent and violence destroying peace and property.

6. Because of the importance of the agricultural pursuits. In the very beginning God sent man forth to till the soil as his chief mission. All civilized life depends upon agriculture. Without the farmer the world would be a wilderness. In our marvelous development the interests of the farmer have not been properly guarded.

7. Because labor is the basis of all wealth and has been from the time when God said, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Without labor none can accumulate and all development would cease. The claims of the laborer must be justly met so that he in bearing the great burdens of life shall share more equally in its enjoyments.

8. Because business men have and will continue to suffer great depreciation and increasing losses unless a better adjustment is made.

9. Because the good of society demands that so much of vital importance to its well-being and peace is bound up in concentrated capital and massed labor which now largely control production, manufactures, transportation and development the very sources of supply and demand upon which society depends. The commission proposed is non-partisan, impartial and designed to meet the wants of all the

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people. ... and furnishing information to the States

10. Because we declared equal rights and millions of our citizens are complaining that they have not been protected in them. Rights are as eternal and immutable as truth. There is always a way to do right and a way to right wrongs. If wrongs exist they must be righted. Rights must be guarded and maintained. Right is eternal and like truth will prevail. The commission is important because of its inquiry along the lines of this fundamental principle of our government, therefore the demands of the people require such work as is proposed in this bill.

11. Because the national and state legislative bodies are not so constituted as to give proper time to the industrial matters presented in this bill, nor are they made equally of representative men such as is proposed in this commission; nor are they non-partisan. These bodies are besieged by men lobbying for special privileges while none are lobbying for the good of all. The work of this commission is confined to the pressing questions of the age, and our new environments; and its investigations and recommendations are designed to meet the greatest need of our times. What can be heard, considered and recommended in shorter time and with less expense for the best good of all than can be accomplished by a legislative body or in any other way.

12. Congress is the proper body to authorize the appointment of such a commission as it is composed of members coming from all parts of every state. However jealous we may be of the rights of the states no one can object to such a commis-

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tion making recommendations to congress and furnishing information to the states which may be of incalculable value.

13. Because the commission could utilize a large amount of statistical information gathered at great cost by various agricultural and labor organizations, and especially could use to great advantage the information collected by the various labor committees appointed in recent years, both state and national, in our own country and by other nations most advanced in civilization. The facts so ably compiled by the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor for the United States, would be of incalculable value. This, together with the findings of similar commissions appointed by thirty-two of our different states would be utilized. It would also have the benefit of the completed work of the English Royal Commission of Labor and also the progressing work of the Higher Council of Labor, established in France, and the Higher Council of Labor appointed in Belgium. Not only would it have the benefit of all such recently accumulated facts, but would be in position to study the best laws of civilization, and the best thoughts of the age, and thus be able to recommend more equitable laws than now exist, looking to the solution of the most vital and pressing political and economical questions of the age.

14. Labor statistical Bureaus are of recent origin and were first established in the United States. The first one of these in Mass. in 1869. They have since been established in thirty-two of our states. The first commissioner of labor.

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the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, was appointed under the general government in 1885.

The English Royal Commission of Labor was appointed by royal warrant, dated Apr. 21 1891. The fifth and final report of this commission was made to both Houses of Parliament in June 1894.

The German Commission of Labor Statistics was appointed in 1891. It consists of fourteen members, one hundred and sixty-eight civil servants and eighty-four assistants.

The Higher Council of Labor was established in France in 1891. It consists of fifty members, chosen from among manufacturers, workmen and persons well informed upon economic and social questions.

The Belgian Higher Council of Labor was appointed in 1892. It consists of forty-eight members, chosen in equal numbers from workmen, employers and specialists in economic science. Both these bodies are authorized to criticize and recommend legislation. These foreign commissions are cited as precedents and to show that civilized nations are progressing along the line of our declared principles of equality which are recalled by this bill.

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This bill does not in any way conflict with the principle of arbitration. While arbitration should be the mode of settling disputes, yet arbitration can only recommend or settle disputes according to existing laws. The more perfect our laws the less will be disputes and the less demand for arbitration.

There is at present a pressing demand not only for arbitration but for more satisfactory and equitable laws to govern our modern industrial system.