The Labor Injunction

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finding precedents. It seems to be decidedly superior to the ordinary digest both in comprehensiveness and accuracy of citation.  
—HAROLD C. HAVIGHURST.


This a very excellent and thorough work. It goes further than a mere discussion of doctrine and classification of cases and covers not only the legal but the economic aspects of injunctions and labor disputes. The book is divided into five chapters, the first being the “Allowable Area of Economic Conflict”, which covers the history of the use of the injunction. The second chapter, entitled “Procedure and Proof Underlying Labor Injunctions”, takes up in detail the procedure of the bill of complaint and the method of obtaining injunctions by affidavits. The third chapter, entitled “The Scope of Labor Injunctions and Their Enforcement”, discusses who may be bound by injunction and the growth of the injunction from a simple order to a complex document. The vague language used in injunctions by the Federal Court comes in for a vigorous criticism. In discussing the enforcement of the injunction the authors make a very effective summary of the difficulties involved and take the position that the courts by their exercise of equitable powers in labor disputes have, to a certain extent, weakened their prestige.

The fourth chapter concerns legislation affecting labor injunctions. The authors conclude that the legislative branch of the government has been singularly ineffective in dealing with injunctions. The only notable change so far as our Federal Courts and the few states are concerned is the protection of jury trials in contempt proceedings which involve accusations of crime.

In the last chapter the authors discuss a new bill, No. 1482, which has been pending before Congress for some time and which was introduced instead of the former bill drawn up by Senator Shipstead. It is the author’s opinion that the main issue underlying this bill should be translated into law and to voice the hope that the bar of the country are not opposed in its legislation.

The book is a vigorous criticism of labor injunctions in America. It is the kind of a book which will excite enthusiastic appreciation in some quarters and bitter criticism in others. It will be called partisan and unfair by those who disagree with Mr. Frankfurter’s fundamental social philosophy. Yet the fact that it is subject to these criticisms constitutes the book’s outstanding merit. The problem of labor injunctions represents a conflict of social interests.
Either side may be argued with plausibility. Both sides cannot be presented in one book at the same time. No one who studies labor injunctions can be satisfied with things as they are. Yet on the other hand no proposal can be made which will not meet criticism. The authors of this book are to be congratulated upon the splendid presentation of the liberal point of view of this highly controversial subject.


No lawyer practices for many years without being confronted with some documents, the authenticity of which are questioned. When such a question arises Mr. Osborn's book will become of great practical importance. It is of interest even when there is no such question before the reader.

The author bases the book upon faith in the ability of a bona fide expert as opposed to the amateur in such matters. The writer brings to bear on the problem not only legal research but psychological and chemical and mechanical studies. There are over two hundred plates illustrative of the matter explaining the text.

The present work is a second edition of a former work brought down to date and revised. Nine new chapters and a new part have been added. It is impossible for the reviewer to discuss or criticize the details of this work. It is sufficient to say that it is unique and nothing else that has ever been published can take its place.


A birds-eye view of the work of the Supreme Court during the October term, 1928, is presented in this book. Nearly all the cases are stated, including a very large number where no opinion was given. The statements are accurate, although necessarily all points involved could not be treated. There might be a difference of opinion as to whether the points have always been emphasized in proportion to their significance. There is little critical material.

The book is of value chiefly as a convenient reference for brief statements of cases where certiorari was denied or the appeal dismissed without opinion. The convenience of the reader would have been served by citations of the cases, particularly the lower court citations in the cases just referred to.