

Security: *W*

The attached paragraphs from Swope's talk of December 9th, 1937 deserves attention.- the point of stabilization of industry.

Also, Mr. Swope's paragraph on what an hour and seven tenths work by an American workmen will buy needs attention. The workman he is talking about is a highly paid electric man perhaps, ~~the~~ The majority of workers in this country must work as ~~along as~~ a ~~as~~ European man to fill such a basket.

Swope Urges Job Insurance Law Revision

(Continued from page one)

you is to have faith. Things are not nearly so bad but what the mind makes it worse, and if you want to get a renewal of your faith, go to Europe."

Indirectly suggesting that many of the states in this country have overtaken and passed England in social security legislation, Mr. Swope praised the states which give merit ratings to those industries which promote stabilization or guarantee of employment, "so that that industry which stabilizes employment will pay less into the fund."

"That really is the important and significant thing," he said. "It isn't the insurance for unemployment that you really want. It is the stabilization or guarantee of work."

The New York law, Mr. Swope said regretfully, neither gives merit ratings nor assesses both employer and employee. "We have," he said, "almost the worst form of the law, where irrespective of what an employer does in regard to stabilization of industry, the amount that you pay is exactly the same as the worst employer."

Praising the principle of old age pensions, Mr. Swope, who is a member of the Social Security Advisory Council, said that the law could be improved to include employees of educational and philanthropic institutions, domestic servants and "to some extent, agricultural workers," all of whom are now excluded. The law, he said, "has been declared constitutional, and I am not one of

those who believe that the law will ever be repealed."

Although he said he liked the forty-hour week, Mr. Swope observed that forty-seven hours were the rule in England and as many or more held on the Continent. "No place in Europe," he said, "is there any demand, not even in the International Labor Office at Geneva, for a shorter work week. Americans there were the only people that advocated it." He remarked that when he started work in 1895, he labored fifty-six hours a week, for \$7.

Comparing living standards on a basis of purchasing power, which eliminated tricks in the currency exchange rates, Mr. Swope said that in the United States 25 per cent of the average man's yearly pay went for shelter or rent. In Europe, he said, the amount ranged from 17 to 35 per cent. In America, he said, a man had to work 1.7 hours to provide a basket filled with a dozen eggs, a pound of butter, a pound of bread, a quart of milk and a pound of beef. The European, he added, would have to work 4.25 hours.

Whereas it took four-and-a-half months' work to buy a good low-cost car here, he said, it took anywhere from eight-and-a-half months to two years in Europe. Here, a man needed to work only 3.6 minutes to provide a kilowatt hour of electricity, while in Europe a man would have to labor from eighteen to forty-two minutes.

Mr. Swope concluded his speech with an attack on the wages-and-hours bill which passed the United States Senate last spring. Although it would not affect the hours or wages of one person in the General Electric Company, he said, "it would affect very radically and very rigidly the wages and hours in certain sections of our country and in the smaller companies, and the administration of such a law would be well-nigh impossible and add tremendously to our already great costs of government."

Alta M. M. M. Doll

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