

ALGER, PECK & GRAFTON

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

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50 BROADWAY

NEW YORK CITY

August 29th, 1932

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I have yours of August 22nd and enclosed is requested copy of the decision with reference to pressing machines. This was one of the matters left in dispute when the strike was called off and it was referred to me for decision. The American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers Association is a subcontracting group and operates some six hundred pressing machines. This decision fixes the compensation of machine pressers and provides for the additional payment of \$8.00 per week into the unemployment fund. This will continue until the termination of the contract next June. It ought to result in approximately \$75,000 being paid by the entire industry into this fund. There was some outcry in the industry against the decision by other groups who did not wish to have unemployment insurance worked out quite in this way or until some general plan of a different character were adopted. Hence, the final ending of the decision.

I am enclosing a clipping from the World-Telegram on it. I have had a number of inquiries for the decision including the Department of Labor.

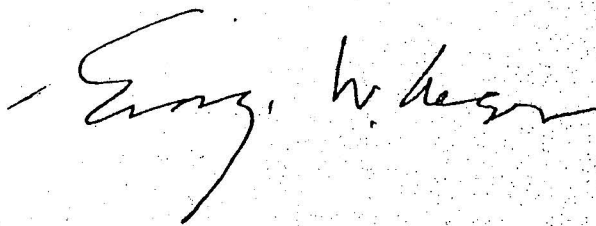
One of these days I will try and look you up in the country when I am out in Westport. If I don't get you in this way soon, I will try and see you in the city and talk over this very interesting work, which I am enjoying very much but find very difficult.

It was very nice to hear from you again.

I remain,

Yours, As Ever,

GWA:EPL
Enc.



OFFICE OF THE IMPARTIAL CHAIRMAN
132 West 31st Street
New York City

Bulmer
Alger

DECISION IN REFERENCE TO PRESSING MACHINES.
CASE NO. 776

August 16, 1932.

Under the agreement dated August 2nd, 1932 between the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers Association and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Joint Board of Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reofer Makors Union of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, it is agreed that the matter of PRESSING MACHINES, their installation, operation and special wage rate to be paid to workers operating them, and so forth, should be at once submitted to the Impartial Chairman for decision, and which decision should be retroactive as of the date of the signing of this contract. In accordance with this provision in the contract, a hearing has been given to the parties interested who have been represented on this day.

After full consideration the following decision is made.

With respect to pressing machines, I decide as follows:-

1. The minimum weekly wage of machine pressers shall be \$57.00;
2. In addition thereto every employer using pressing machines shall pay into THE PRESSERS' UNEMPLOYMENT FUND a sum equal to Eight (\$8.00) Dollars per week for every pressing machine used during such week at full time.
3. If a pressing machine does not work a full week the employer shall pay in lieu of Eight (\$8.00) Dollars a sum equal to Fourteen (14%) per cent of the wages earned by each machine presser in his employ during such week. The proceeds of all such payments shall be used for equitable distribution among unemployed pressers, members of the Union.
4. THE PRESSERS' UNEMPLOYMENT FUND shall be administered by a Board consisting of representatives of Locals 35, 48, the Joint Board, and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which Board shall make its own rules and shall have the power to devise a form of statement or accounting to be filled out by every employer and to accompany his remittance to the Board.
5. The above provisions shall enter into effect in the work week beginning on August 22nd, 1932.

The foregoing decision is to be construed as relating only to a special emergency with reference to this particular machine, that it is not a precedent for unemployment insurance in any form.

(Signed) George W. Alger
Impartial Chairman

N.Y. World
SHOULD machines continue to the support of workers they throw out of employment?

This question is presented in simple, practical form by the introduction of electrically driven pressing machines in the cloak and suit industry. George W. Alger, impartial chairman of that industry in New York, has answered the question with an interesting and perhaps epoch-making Yes.

Mr. Alger rules that for every electric pressing machine used in a factory the employer must pay \$8 a week into a pressers' unemployment fund. The proceeds of this fund will be distributed by the union to relieve the needs of unemployed pressers. Also Mr. Alger grants a \$12 increase in pay to pressers employed on the machines.

Here, we think, is a highly significant development in the new humane economics as distinguished from the old economics of "devil take the hindmost."

Under the old system the machine crowded out the workers, leaving them to suffer and readjust themselves as best they might—often resulting in serious social disorders.

Apparently the Alger theory is that—where machines displace workers—employers and consumers should forego for a time part of the saving from lowered production costs in order to mitigate the hardships of readjustment for workers who have lost their jobs, also to spare the community some of the burdens and risks of unemployment.

There is a big idea in this—reaching beyond times of depression. The machine cannot and should not support indefinitely those it makes idle. The latter must be fitted as speedily as may be into other parts of the industrial organism. But the machine can contribute toward easing the readjustment. It need not be a Juggernaut.

This is the spirit of the new economics. We think Mr. Alger's application of it in the cloak and suit industry should be closely watched. It has far reaching possibilities of extension.