

# CALLING ALL LABORERS IN THE REPUBLIC

Do not let your weakness be the cause of the breaking up of the labor chain. Laborers: Remember that united we stand. Do not be selfish with your fellowmen. United in your ideas, you are sure to achieve your purpose; separated, you constitute yourself into your employer's bait, who doesn't care for your success or your relations. You will fight for the increase of his fortune and will receive nothing in return. Your war should be the war for equity and just compensa-

## "HOME, SWEET HOME"

Home. The word by itself inspires the most noble and pure of sentiments. In this vast world is our country, in our country our "HOME", the only place wherein are kept our affections, our secrets, the only place where the human masquerade of vanity can be disposed of.

What is needed to make a true home? Not just money. It is impossible to build a home with construction material and workmen's patient labor, for there are beautiful palaces of fine architecture ornamented with antiques of the finest quality, which are as far away from being homes as a tent, a prison or a museum. Instead, there are modest wooden houses made with all sorts of sacrifices, but of which men and women think as Home, throughout a lifetime.

It is impossible to build a home with just the perfection of domestic tasks. There are houses where banquets are served to reach dinner, where the floors shine like mirrors, where not even a cobweb or speck of dust can be seen on the walls or furniture, but from where its inhabitants flee as if from the purgatory. And there are houses where although disorder and confusion reign, are considered as the place where tired workers come, as if to a sanctuary, to rest and have peace in their tribulations.

Home is built not only to congregate the familiar unities of husband, wife and children. There are homes, reflecting a small paradise on earth. Familiar circles exist, formed not only by accidental relationships but by tenderness, affection, mutual help and mutual comprehension. Circles exist that are nothing but a description of Dante's inferno, filled with hatred and despotism. There are homes to which children return as birds to their nests, and there are homes which children abandon, never to return.

What then, are the elements to make a house a paradise on earth? What we wish above all things. What we struggle for, sometimes triumphantly, sometimes in vain.

The basic element is love. Love for husband and wife; parents and children's love. Love for brother and sisters. Love is the light that keeps the home warm and enlightened.

Without love, all would be as cold and inhospitable as a grave. There would be no warmth for the heart. The wife and husband who have little affection for each other and none for their children will

tion. The war in which you are to stand out and redeem yourself of misery; the war where you shall fight for better salaries, to prevent your children from living in misery and be the victims of vice; a war where you are worth for your capacity not your name or rank. Comrades: If you are being crushed, the fault is yours and only yours, for not uniting with your comrades and fight against your employer in everything that oppresses you. If your children starve, yours is the fault, for not demanding your rights, for not associating.

Laborers: Your salvation is in your hands. Associates: Fight for yourselves and for your fellowmen and they will fight for your cause, which is the right one. Be one of the leaders. Your sacrifices will be remunerated. You are increasing your employer's fortune while he ignores you, mistreats you and grant you very low salaries. Associate Comrades: Form one solid mass with those of your kind.

have built a house and will own a "house".

Two persons collaborations is required to build a house. No man alone, no matter how pleasant and home loving he might be, can build a home if he has for wife an unpleasant, miserable woman who spends her time scolding because of her domestic duties or who goes visiting friends, clubs, or bridge parties.

Neither can a woman, even if she cooks her food on a "magic chef" constitute by herself, a house into a real home, if her husband is lazy, a gambler or a drunkard or if he considers home a sort of station where you stop for fuel and repairs. True homes are formed by the work of man and woman combined in their strengths and heart to realize their tasks.

Peace is indispensable in a true home. It should be a place where everything is peaceful and serene. A place where you seek refuge after your daily work. A place possessing such a tranquility that not even the incessant worries that never fail to appear should disturb.

A house where fighting ensues continually, where parents are their worst enemies, where brothers and sisters fight over breakfast, dinner or supper is not a home. Home is not a word for a place filled constantly with sounds of disputes and angered voices. The correct word is madhouse.

Another indispensable requisite for a home is for it to be gay, full of happiness. There should be laughter, joy and music in the house. Smile and the world smile at you, is a good motto and should be followed.

There are homes full of pessimism. Nobody can enter these places without hearing a chorus of lamentations of passed grievances and future pessimism. In other houses such a pleasant atmosphere exists that you have a sensation, on leaving, that God is in the sky and all throughout the world reigns peace and goodwill.

It is a noble job that of making a home. And most dignified job too. Only it is a pity so few people really know how it is formed.

## A CURIOUS CASE

So that the laborers can get acquainted with the "generous" judgment with which the owner of a first class business place attends to his interests and solves his employees legal petitions, we are going to narrate a very curious case.

### WE REFER TO THE BALBOA GARDEN:

Ever since this establishment became Mr. Musa's, the employees in general have tried hard to obtain recognition of a weekly day off and annual vacation, as guaranteed in Articles Nos. 24 and 26 of Decree No. 38 of 1941, but despite their efforts, every solution admitted as a possible arrangement with their employer, resulted in contradiction with the employees' interest. The best they have been able to succeed in, is to obtain two free days in the whole month but as for the extra hours of work accomplished on Saturdays and Sundays, there is not the least expectation that payment will be received. Talking over the matter, they were categorically informed that the house does not recognize extra hours so this omission will have to be terminated with, by the authorities.

But there is some curious information. Mr. Musa believes faithfully that what is yours legally or not. He has a son working at the establishment as cashier. He is entitled to a weekly day-off and has chosen Monday.

This unusual case makes us stop and think "how vast is the Jewish judgment in interpreting the law." The B.W.S.A. asks the Chief of Social Justice to open immediate investigation on this matter which we formally denounce hereby.

## TO ALL EMPLOYEES

ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE BALBOA GARDEN ARE REQUESTED TO GO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE BARTENDERS, WAITERS AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATION OF PANAMA AND GET THEIR CARNETS AS MEMBERS OF SAID ASSOCIATION, FOR WITHOUT THESE THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING EFFECTIVE JUNE 10th, 1944.

JAIME PUERTA P.  
MANAGER

Panama, May 25th, 1944 --  
Mr. Anastacio Ortiz P.,  
President of the Bartenders,  
Waiters and Other Similar,  
Association of Panama.  
Panama, R. P.

Dear Sir:  
I acknowledge receipt of your attentive circular received May 15th.

In reference to same, it is my pleasure to inform you that, as manager of this establishment, I will be willing to cooperate always with your fine association, as according to its statutes, you are endeavoring to extend the relationship between employers and employees, and also assure the efficiency and good conduct of the members in their position as employees.

I am remitting copy of the Memorandum sent today to all my employees urging them to enroll as soon as possible and secure their carnets without which they will be unable to continue working effective June 10th.

Yours truly,

Jaime Puerta Gómez  
"Manager Balboa Garden"  
Jardin Balboa.

# MEMORANDUM

The section of Fiscalization and Work, duly authorized by the Directive of the Bartenders, Waiters and Similar, of Panama, in the name of our institution and laborers in general, presents to the consideration of the Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia, and Agricultura y Comercio, the following enumerated matters of the present memorandum, soliciting reforms of Bye Law number 38, 1941, in everything relating to the Labor Organization of our Republic; the compliance to the dispositions of mentioned Bye Law and the application of penalties to merchants who systematically have dedicated themselves to violate the law, causing prejudices to the interests of the laborers in general.

### 1—Reforms

As our National Constitution determines that labor is protected by the nation, consequently then, its organization, we submit to the consideration of the mentioned Ministerios, the following program of reforms:

a) The corporations or laborers aggragation who are recognized as a juridic person are to be protected and backed by the Government in a manner that guarantees the independence of those organizations in their labor activities, that is, our countrypeople or foreigners not aggragated according to law, will not be permitted to work in the line of work their associate belongs, who will identify himself by a carnet expedited by their association and duly approved by the government. Foreigners shall get their carnets only on presentation of their cedulas.

This last disposition is to protect national or foreign laborers, radicated permanently in

## LABOR LAW IN ARGENTINE

Because we consider it of great interest, we publish the following information which an Argentinian newspaper, "La Razon", give to its public, encouraged by the zealous actuation of Secretaria de Trabajo y Prevision, of that country where authorities comply with their tasks with no need of denunciations that bring nothing but revenge and bad feelings to the denouncing party.

This is the important information:

"Law infractions confirmed in many business places":

Inspectors from the Secretaria de Trabajo y Prevision inspected 73 business places, confirming 36 infractions for excess of working period; 3 for not granting the weekly day off; The affected places comprehend:

5 metallurgical industries;  
3 grocery stores;  
8 confection stores;  
1 construction and material;  
1 electrical  
22 bakeries;  
5 for logs;  
4 higiene;  
3 textiles;  
3 transportation by land;  
6 commercial.

Well, Comrades. That is an efficient labor; worthy of millions of applauses. In Argentina all lawbreakers are prosecuted.

If our authorities had that same zeal, laborers would rest from the tyranny committed with them.

the Republic, against foreign laborers, who monopolize us by working for almost anything, sometimes because of great necessity and others to shield their other activities. They will make sure that in the future no laborer on the Canal Zone works on his day off. By this means the moral of our labor organization will stand higher. Also the Government will have laborers at their disposal, whenever necessary. Merchants will know where to go in search of a job. In a few words, the man that works and produces, contributes each time to the prosperity and welfare of the nation.

b) That the laborer be paid an increase of 50 per cent of his salary for every extra hour.

c) Put an end to verbal contract which only fool ignorant laborers. That a written contract be made out in triplicate so that the contractors and the Section of Labor Organization can each keep a copy.

d) That the weekly day off be obligatory. No man shall work more than six days weekly. On their day off, unemployed persons can take their places. This refers to business places which because of their nature have to be kept opened on Sundays and national holidays, as well as other exceptions, consented by the law, and

e) That vacations cannot be accumulated (without harming entitled rights).

This disposition is fundamental like the others.

2—Investigations  
(Legal Dispositions that are not complied with)

We request that an investigation be carried out by Government inspectors together with two members of our section of Labor and Fiscalization, of all gardens, cabarets, hotels, restaurants and bars of this city, for the time being, in order to see in which of these business places are the following clauses complied with:

a) An 8 hour working day only.

b) Payment of 25 per cent actual salary for every extra hour.

c) Weekly day off of 24 consecutive hours.

d) Payment of annual vacation.

e) State which houses employees are not 75 per cent Panamanians and

f) Which business places comply with the dispositions of article 46 of said Bye Law.

### 3—Sanctions

There is no doubt that applying sanctions to contumacious lawbreakers is tough by itself, especially when, because of lack of denunciations these faults have become such a habit that when authorities intervene, it is too late to prevent such violations. But if there is any scruple feelings about effecting such denunciations, it should be discarded as soon as each of these lawbreakers are sanctioned they will learn to run their business in ORDER, and according to the law, to escape according penalties.

Panama, May 26, 1941.

Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia.

The President,  
Anastacio Ortiz P.

The Secretary,  
S. A. Cuellar.  
C-47-11262