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Recent Publications

THE LABOR RELATIONS LAW OF CANADA. Prepared by the International Labor Law Committee, Section of Labor Relations Law, American Bar Association. The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1977, Pp. xvi, 256. \$15.00.

As the flow of commercial activity between Canada and the United States continues to grow, American businessmen are becoming increasingly aware that labor relations disputes could involve Canadian labor law. To aid American attorneys in advising their business clients, the International Labor Law Committee has prepared a fairly comprehensive volume on Canadian labor law. In addition to explaining the important features of Canadian labor law, the authors have diligently attempted to compare and contrast these features with United States labor law. This approach adds to the utility of the volume by helping to put matters into a proper perspective for the United States attorney.

The gamut of Canadian labor relations problems are covered in this volume. Jurisdictional conflicts between the national government and the provinces are discussed first. It is pointed out that in Canada the provinces are primarily responsible for settling labor disputes, unlike the United States where labor relations are federally controlled.

The law of collective bargaining is discussed with emphasis on bargaining units, the obligation to bargain, and the imposition and duration of collective agreements. Grievances and the law of arbitration are also given an in-depth analysis. Other areas analyzed are the scope of labor relations in Canada, union security, economic sanctions, judicial review, and intra-union disciplinary proceedings.

An indispensable part of this volume is its treatment of the law of unfair practices. The focus is primarily upon unfair labor practices at the initial organizational level of a union, in the union's effort to get employer recognition, and in the negotiating process. Since this is an area where substantial litigation

occurs, United States attorneys should find this material particularly useful.

The one shortcoming of the volume is its inadequate illustration of the principles enunciated in the landmark Canadian labor law cases. However, this single shortcoming does not detract from the overall value of the volume, which is significant. It serves as an important reference source for the United States attorney unfamiliar with Canadian labor law.

C. M.

LABOR RELATIONS YEARBOOK 1976. Prepared by the Editors of the Labor Relations Reporter of The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. Washington, D.C., 1977. Pp. 600.

The value of this volume, the twelfth in BNA's Labor Relations Yearbook Series, is derived from its statistical economic information. However, it should be noted at the outset that such a compilation of data is not directed at the practicing attorney or firm engaged in the litigation of labor or labor related disputes. Emphasis may be characterized as two fold; first, to introduce various issues, trends, and developments that should be considered within the collective bargaining relationship, and second, to provide the necessary foundation of relevant data that enables the individual to negotiate with economic responsibility and awareness.

Mindful of the care necessary when dealing with statistical figures canvassing such a vast field, the reader develops an appreciation for the care taken to present an objective analysis of both the issues raised and the information relevant thereto. Form and manner of presentation are definitely positive features.

Specifics include a chronological listing of significant labor related events of 1976, a record of contract settlements in 1976, the 1977 schedule of collective bargaining, reports on employment, strikes, and various labor related conferences and studies. Topics of particular interest include a breakdown of recent developments within particular labor organizations with representation that ranges from the traditional (a report of the

AFL-CIO Executive Council meetings) to the current sensitivity towards the working woman (a report on the first meeting held by the National Executive Board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women). The role the federal government plays on labor relations is examined with reference to the National Labor Relations Board and the area within the scope of its regulatory authority. Finally, the yearbook offers a selected analysis of significant decisions handed down by the NLRB and the courts during 1976.

The book is an excellent tool in preparation for the negotiation process and is to be recommended to the practitioner on that account.

F.J.D.

