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The Teacher's Right to Strike

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Editorial Comment

THE TEACHER'S RIGHT TO STRIKE

Many thinking people in our world are reconsidering and revising their concept of the right to strike. Some individuals believe that the strike is a selfish act of force committed by some workers against the rest of the workers in our society. What happens to a living organism if, for example, the digestive or circulatory systems, for one reason or another, fail to perform their function? Our social order is very complex and is becoming even more so. What affects one element affects all. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."

Do all workers have the right to strike? Is this weapon the privilege of only a few? Do farmers, physicians, nurses, teachers, clergymen, policemen, and firemen have this freedom to get what they want when they want it? Do our fighting men in Viet Nam have the right to strike for more pay and better working conditions? If our boys overseas do not have this privilege, how do the workers at home who provide their supplies and equipment justify their right to use such a dangerous weapon?

Is the strike necessary? In our society dedicated to democratic principles of law and order is there not a better way to secure more adequate wages and better working conditions? Do we really believe in democracy? Can we expect to right our social wrongs only by means of force, loss of wages, and destruction of productivity? Why should our people suffer in order to secure the objectives of those who strike? Why not work out a plan to bring about economic and social righteousness by judicial means? Jurisprudence is *not* dead!

Homer L. J. Carter
Editor