

The preamble to the Constitution of the United States sets forth six objectives. One of them has always had major significance for the labor movement:

"To promote the general welfare."

What distinguishes the labor movement from the "special interest" lobbies in Washington and the state capitals is our concern for the "general welfare" of our nation and all its people, rather than the interests of union members alone.

It is in that tradition that the issues set forth in this pamphlet are presented and discussed.

Where America Stands Today

By the end of this year our national production will be at a rate of \$500 billion a year—half a trillion dollars, the greatest productive achievement in the world's history.

But we must not be dazzled by this statistic. This apparently impressive figure is too small. Since 1953 our national economy's growth has barely kept pace with the increase in our population. It has grown too slowly to meet the long-neglected needs of our own people; and it has been at a snail's pace compared to the surging growth of the Soviet Union, which threatens to match our industrial power in a decade.

Published by the

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND
CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS**

815 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

GEORGE MEANY
President

WM. F. SCHNITZLER
Secretary-Treasurer

Prepared by the AFL-CIO Legislative Dept.

ANDREW J. BIEMILLER, *Director*

Publication No. 104 January 1960

PRINTED
IN
USA

