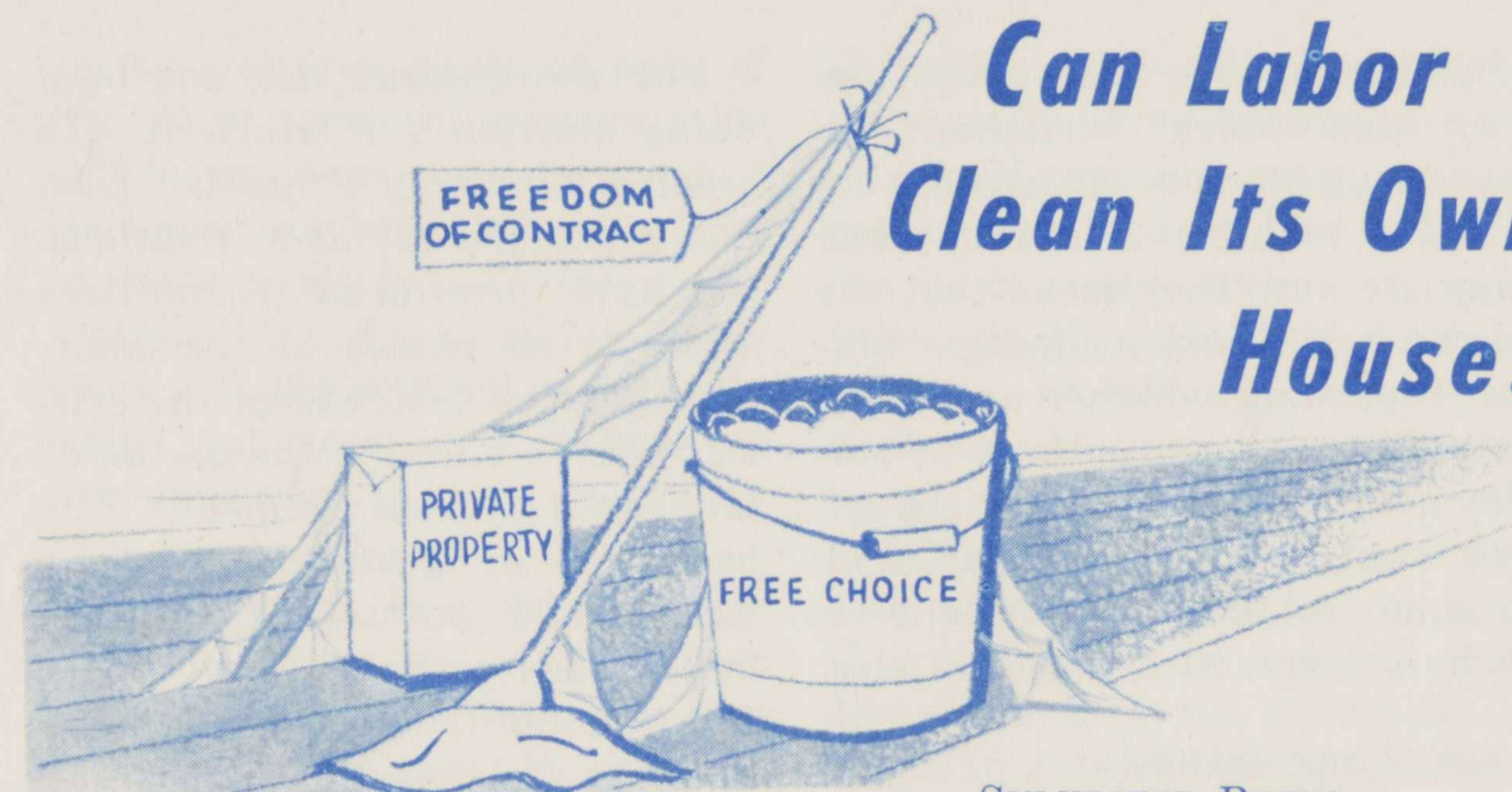


Can Labor Clean Its Own House?



SYLVESTER PETRO

THE ANSWER IS that no one else can. But before any house can be cleaned, one has to recognize dirt when one sees it; and one needs a broom, mop, water, strong soap, and above all else, the will and the power to clean up. All these things are now lacking, and more. Not only is there trouble about recognizing the dirt. There is even some doubt concerning the identity of the house cleaner, and some people seem to be confused about where to get the cleansing materials.

The house cleaners will have to be the workingmen of the country. The cleansing materials will have to be their own free choice and their right to refuse to join unions or to participate in strikes, picket-

ing, and boycotts. If the workers are to have any success in the exercise of these rights, they are going to need the protection which governments have so far denied them. For the sad condition of the house of labor is the consequence, basically, of the fact that governments in this country have been failing to protect the basic rights of free men in the labor field.

The basic rights of free men are the rights of private property and freedom of contract. These rights, when their exercise is protected by government, give men the freedom to control their persons and their property. They mean in the labor field that a worker has free access to all em-

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