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August 30, 1957

Christian's Work Must
'Serve Useful Purpose'

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--"If work doesn't serve a useful purpose to all concerned the Christian can not engage in it," a speaker declared here during a labor-management conference held by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The speaker was Paul Sanders of Nashville, Tenn., a member of the law school faculty of Vanderbilt University. He was one of three persons who appeared at the conference session.

The other speakers were H. W. Rollman, president of Welco Shoe Corp., Waynesville, N. C., and John G. Ramsay, labor union official from Washington, D. C.

Sanders is vice-chairman of the Commission. The other speakers are well-known laymen of other evangelical denominations.

The subject of the discussions for the week of conferences was "Management and Labor: A Christian View."

Sanders has been active for the past 20 years in the field of labor law and arbitration. He is a recognized authority in this field and is used extensively by the government in the settlement of labor-management disputes.

Sanders said the basic problems in all forms of human relationships are theological.

"Faith in God brings us into the proper relationships," he told those attending the conference. "Christian love is the supreme motive in human conduct," Sanders said, "while no-love is the greatest sin."

Rollman is the head of a shoe corporation that has 72 factories in 61 countries spread over the world, and employs 14,000 workers.

Thirty years ago the Rollman interest devised the plan of dividing the profits in the business three ways - 1/3 for the workers, 1/3 for taxes and expenses, and 1/3 for business expansion. The spread of plants throughout the world has led him to conceive his plan for World Construction which he has written in a book under that title and which has been widely distributed.

"Our present working population is 65 million," he writes. "It would not lower our ability to maintain our present standard of living if even a million persons were drafted and employed to serve in a 'Peace Army.'"

"An additional 20 minutes a day added to the present 8 hour day of our working population would make up for the loss in man power. It would certainly be a smaller drain on our manpower than to draft 10 or 15 million persons into a fighting army instead of a peace army." Rollman declared.

Rollman also said, "When people are treated as they should be like valuable, important human beings, they will enjoy their work and they will do good work. In this way the business will be profitable, the business will be successful and the workers in the company will have security."

Rollman has gone through six crises in his business career. The first of these was when he was driven out of Germany, his native country, by Hitler. He set up business in Belgium and worked back to prosperity. His family of 22 was finally liquidated by Hitler with only him and his wife escaping. They came to America and started again and his business has grown to another world industrial empire.

The conference was given the view of Labor by John G. Ramsay of the United Steel Workers of America.

He is a Presbyterian layman and elder. "God ordained work in the first pages of the Bible," he said, "and told the man he created to subdue the earth."

"God finished his work then told man to carry on. It is when man is doing work that he is doing the will of God."

He told the group that the true labor movement was found in the men and women who did the work. When asked by one in the conference, "What is your opinion of labor racketeers?" he answered, "There are no labor racketeers, but there are racketeers who have gotten into the labor movement. If they were not in the labor movement they would show up in some other movement or in some other place."

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BP folks & facts

.....Leland F. Webb, a native of McAlester, Okla., has been appointed assistant editor of the (Okla.) Baptist Messenger, succeeding Sam Brents, who resigned to take a position in Nashville. Webb is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth.

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