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I M P O R T A N T I N F O R M A T I O N

F O R

A L L E M P L O Y E E S

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(Send telegram also to
Chas. Hartman,
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I have learned with profoundest regret of the strike of crane men and riggers at Schenectady and Pittsfield. Notwithstanding the laudable desire amongst the wage workers for higher standards of living than now exist, the fact remains that under our form of government we have established in this country the highest wages and highest standards of living secured by wage workers in any portion of the world. stop. That does not mean that we should not strive for still higher standards, but if the German Government succeeds in subjecting our people to its own will by setting up its authority over us, as it has attempted to do, these standards are in danger of being lowered to suit the wishes of the German autocracy. stop. Labor unions cannot exist and operate if liberty is destroyed and the rule of an autocrat is set up over us in place of our republican institution. stop. The American workingman has more at stake in this great war crisis than any other portion of our people. stop. In order to be safe to work out our own destiny we must see to it now that the republican institutions we have established are freed from the danger of destruction by the European autocrat who seeks to impose his will upon us. stop. That is our first duty, not only as patriotic American citizens, but as wage workers, having the future welfare and freedom of the toiling masses at heart. stop. We are at war to maintain the right to govern ourselves. stop. No higher ideals were ever proclaimed than we as a nation are fighting for. stop. Every particle of energy that we possess is necessary to furnish supplies for our boys who are fighting at the front. stop. Every impediment that is placed in the way of production gives aid and comfort to the enemy. stop. If no other means had been provided for adjustment of labor disputes strikes might be justifiable as a means of protecting the workers against arbitrary wrong. stop. Other means have been provided. stop. The National War Labor Board has been created, composed of equal numbers of representatives of Labor selected upon the nomination of the President of the American Federation of Labor and representatives of employers selected upon the nomination of the National Industrial Conference Board. stop. The Board is so constituted that labor can get a fair hearing and fair judgement at its hands. stop. From my personal knowledge of the labor movement I know that that is all that labor is asking. stop. The method has the approval of the President of the United States, who in a proclamation issued under date of April eighth of this year said: Quote. I do

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Volume C 35

PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA