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A Guide to Sources of Information on the National Labor Relations Board

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tor workers facing circumstances that promote solidarity and unionization, and these are good examples that can be extended to the organizing drives now taking place in building services, hotels and restaurants, telecommunications, retail, and other service industries and occupations. Could janitors, nurses, and Wal-Mart employees be the service sector longshoremen of the coming era? Why not? Are work, unions, and the working class really dying out, or are they taking shape in different ways that give rise to new forms of conflict and negotiation, based on the same kind of moral sense and solidarity that Theriault describes so compellingly from his own blue-collar experience?

In other words, I would actually give this book broader value than does the author. His insights extend far beyond traditional blue-collar work to address fundamental questions of democratic representation and collective action in a market economy—questions that will be with us for as far ahead as we can see. Theriault's guideposts and lessons, I believe, are more encompassing than he knows.

My only other quibble is that a book on dock work published in 2003 should have said something—at least in a preface or afterword—about the great West Coast port battle of 2002: the massive displays of both worker and employer solidarity, the slowdown and lockout, federal intervention, and the compromise agreement that has been both praised and criticized. It would have been enlightening to get this author's take on these historic events. This is undoubtedly a problem of publication deadlines rather than an omission by the author—but the 2002 conflict was critical enough to the story told here that it should have been included even if that meant a slight delay in publication.

Theriault has probably written something about that battle by now, and I am sure it is insightful from a shopfloor point of view. In the meantime, this book is well worth reading as it stands, from fruit-tramp start through crisp story-telling to discouraging finish. I recommend this book for bedtime or summer reading and gift giving as well as for basic courses on industrial relations, contemporary labor history, shipping industry studies, organizational behavior, human resource management, and—to venture beyond my expertise—literature or writing courses that focus on working class literary traditions. I agree with Robert Heilbroner who describes this book as "extraordinary," and Studs Terkel who calls it "absolutely wonderful."

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Research Methods and Information Sources

A Guide to Sources of Information on the National Labor Relations Board. Edited by Gordon T. Law, Jr. New York: Routledge, 2002. xvi, 292 pp. ISBN 0-8153-0382-3, $85.00 (cloth).

This book brings together, for the first time (to my knowledge), the many disparate sources of information about the National Labor Relations Board (1935 to date) and its short-lived predecessors, the National Labor Board (1933–34) and the (old) National Labor Relations Board (1934–35). It also provides a historical backdrop for these agencies. As the introduction points out, the book is intended for those who have limited experience working with material relating to the NLRB. However, I think it will be seen as an invaluable research tool not only for the initiate, but for the experienced scholar as well.

Lawyers whose practice does not focus on labor law will discover much valuable information here on how to find NLRB and related Court decisions. The book provides practical examples of research on specific subjects, and of techniques for using unofficial reporting service publications such as the *Labor Relations Reporter* of the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. (BNA). And even the most experienced researcher will find valuable guides to little-known online sources, such as Cornell's own LABORLIT Database (http://www.ilir.uiuc.edu/library/weblit.html), which includes references to books, articles, pamphlets, and other materials received in the Industrial and Labor Relations School's Catherwood Library since January 1989.

The book contains a treasure trove of information on the secondary literature pertaining to the NLRB from 1933 through 1995. Margaret Chaplan, Labor and Industrial Relations Librarian at the University of Illinois, not only has located seemingly every serious piece writ-

ten about the Board—of which, as she notes, there are staggering numbers—but also supplies informative clues to the contents of each work. A separate chapter, by Donna L. Schulman, librarian of the Lenz Library (in the New York City extension of Cornell's Industrial and Labor Relations School), does a comparably thorough job in illustrating how to find law review commentary up through 2002 on specific aspects of the law. Here again, easy-to-follow examples are given. Other chapters give sources of information about the NLRB in federal government documents, and describe archives, manuscripts, and oral histories with substantial primary source material relating to the history of the NLRB.

Want to know where the papers of Robert Denham, the first Taft-Hartley General Counsel, are housed? Turn to page 242 (Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri). Need to figure out on which library shelves you can find government documents such as NLRB Annual Reports? Page 202 informs us that most libraries use the Superintendent of Documents Classification System (SuDoc) to establish a specific address on the shelf for each publication (such as Y 3.N 21/10.1/date for the old NLRB's 1933 annual report but LR L.1:date for NLRB reports dating from 1936).

A word of caution: the *Guide* does not claim to be, nor is it, an exhaustive statement of either the history or the case law of the National Labor Relations Act. For example, the antecedents of the statute and the broad sweep of its 67-year history are covered—admirably well, but in summary form—in one 25-page chapter, by James A. Gross. And Michael Evan Gold has had to manage to compress over 300 volumes of NLRB and court decisions, and related NLRB case-handling procedures, into 30 pages. One must be careful to keep in mind that the book does not claim to be a compendium of the law, or a substitute for individual research on case law or reference to such works as *The Developing Labor Law* or *How to Take a Case before the NLRB,* both of which are cited in the *Guide*.

As the Introduction points out, contributors were encouraged to limit coverage of some subjects and sources. And short summaries on technical legal topics can sometimes be dangerous. For example, the discussion on page 116 might lead the reader to believe that an election cannot be held during the 60-day insulated period before the expiration of a contract, when in fact it is only the petition for an election that cannot be filed during that period.

Putting aside those minor quibbles, this book is a splendid achievement. Gordon Law has brought together all the information one needs to find—or, in some cases, to find where to find—the many pockets of NLRB-related data, historical and legal. For both the novice and the experienced researcher, this *Guide* will be of great value.

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