

“On the Creation of the Department of Labor”

President Woodrow Wilson

March 4, 1913

“The great guiding purpose of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States by improving their working conditions and advancing their opportunities for profitable employment...Nor is there an implication that the wage earners in whose behalf this Department was created consist of such only as are associated together in labor unions. It was created in the interest of the welfare of all wage earners of the United States, either organized or unorganized...The element of fairness to every interest is of equal importance, and the Department has had fairness between wage earner and wage earner, between wage earner and employer, between employer and employer, and between each and the public as a whole the supreme motive and purpose of its activities...through realization of the highest ideals of industrial justice.”