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Lester and Shister: INSIGHTS INTO LABOR ISSUES

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INSIGHTS INTO LABOR ISSUES. Edited by *Richard A. Lester* and *Joseph Shister*.
New York: Macmillan. 1948. Pp. x, 378. \$4.

There seems to be little likelihood that there will ever be a solution or a formula to resolve all difficulties in the labor relations area. Probably the best that can be hoped for is an understanding of some of the issues that continue to be forced upon us. This book presents thirteen essays by labor economists, which are designed to further that understanding and to point the way for a more intensive study in the future. The essays are generally well selected and well written. Experiences during the war years are particularly analyzed and possible future developments are suggested. While the essays are not "coordinated," a general dissatisfaction with the orthodox economic theory as it relates to labor issues is apparent. The fact that realities have often failed to follow the theory seems to substantiate that dissatisfaction. The general aim of the book may be described as an attempt to lay a working basis for the development of a new theory of labor relations. It is only natural that with such an approach more questions are asked than answered. The conclusion reached may best be described as tentative. Nevertheless, the book should be valuable reading to anyone associated with labor relations, and thought-provoking to anyone with a genuine academic interest in the field. To such persons, the book is well recommended.