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## Ginzberg: THE LABOR LEADER

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THE LABOR LEADER. By *Eli Ginzberg*. New York: MacMillan. 1948. Pp. xiv, 190. \$3.

Eli Ginzberg, an associate professor of economics at Columbia University, has here attempted to analyze and evaluate labor leaders as a type, from a study of executive board members of ten leading labor unions. The author considers their social, economic, educational, and ethnic backgrounds, their tenures and salaries in office, and their work patterns. Mr. Ginzberg concludes that in the struggle for recognition of unions, the leader must be principally an aggressive fighter who relies on his "fists and his voice"; but in the subsequent campaign for union security and growth, he is transformed into a bureaucrat whose strength lies in his abilities as an administrator and negotiator. The author

believes that to provide security and employment in the post-war years, labor must look to the state, and unions must increasingly enter the political arena. This shift from business to political unionism will require a new type of labor leader: one who has an expert knowledge and skill in politics and economics, and who can re-educate the union rank-and-file to participate in democratic action, both within and outside union halls. To depict a labor leader in action, the author has devoted almost half of his book to a case history of an organizing campaign among pottery workers in a non-union town. "The Parkinstown Local" is a vivid account of efforts of union organizers to form a local union in a hostile community, their struggle for union recognition, their adroit maneuvering to negotiate a contract, and, finally, a strike to save the newly formed union. Although the book falls far short of presenting a comprehensive study of its subject, it is an interesting exploration of a rich field.