INCIDENCE OF STRIKE ACTIVITY**

I. STRIKES AND THE BUSINESS CYCLE


Presents a model, based on the three-party theory of collective bargaining, which provides predictions concerning the probability and duration of strikes. Establishes a relationship between strike activity, the tightness of the labor market and the previous rates of change of real wages.


Analyzes the number, duration and kind of strikes between 1915-1949, and finds a significant relationship between the strike cycle and the business cycle. During periods of rising employment workers strike to secure wage increases and other benefits in unionized plants and to organize the non-union firm.


In a continuation of the Rees analysis the author examines the relation between strike incidence and the business cycle for the years 1949-1961. His study indicates a high positive correlation between prosperity and strike activity.

* Prepared by Helen Fairbanks, Librarian
** Items from this list should be ordered directly from the publisher. Addresses are given in connection with each reference.

Disputes the generally accepted theory that the number and frequency of strikes increase during periods of prosperity. Argues that workers are unwilling to risk a wage loss because of debts incurred in the belief that prosperity was permanent. William Goldner and Rudolph Blitz in the July 1953 and April 1954 issues of the Industrial and Labor Relations Review both suggest that Levitt placed too much emphasis on the workers' expenditure pattern as the main cause of their reluctance to strike.

2. Interindustry Comparisons


Analyzes recent strike data as the basis for his prediction that union-management relations are stable when power is evenly distributed between the company and the union.


Seeks an explanation of why industrial conflict is prevalent in some industries and countries and not in others. Hypothesizes that strikes occur most frequently where workers are isolated from society doing unpleasant work.


Considers short-run influences on the volume of strike activity such as a more aggressive attitude by management in bargaining, controversies over work rules and technological changes, and the effect of large inventories, and suggests that institutional changes are working toward a lessening of conflict. For the long-run, the author finds that cycles of strikes, concentrated in a few major industries, have slowed down.
3. SOME INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS


An analysis of national trends and international differences in strike activity in fifteen industrialized, non-communist countries which finds a decline in industrial conflict in the post World War II period.


The Commission, chaired by Lord Donovan, found that the number of unofficial strikes, though small and short, had increased over the last decade, while there was little increase in the number of official or constitutional strikes. Includes some international comparisons.


Examines the validity of the assumptions made in recent British studies (The government White Paper, the Report of the Donovan Commission, and the Conservative Party statement) that the number and frequency of strikes in Britain has increased and finds that these reports have exaggerated the seriousness of Britain's strike problem. The author finds that the major effect of industrial unrest is its propensity to cost-inflation and failure to satisfy employee expectations.


A reassessment of the arguments in the Donovan report and of Turner's criticism which defends the government's statistics but acknowledges that Turner provides a useful corrective to the extreme statements which dominate the public press.


Employs multiple regression techniques to analyze and measure strike
activity in Great Britain for the period 1950-1967 in four major industries. Concludes that there is an established relationship between the number of strikes and the demand for labor.


An analysis of the time pattern of industrial conflict in Canada between 1901 and 1966, with comparisons to the U.S. experience. The author finds little relationship between the business cycle and strike activity.

4. INCIDENCE OF CONTRACT REJECTION


Reviews the extent and causes for the recent increase in the number of membership rejection of union negotiated contracts. Offers suggestions to both management and the unions for improving the bargaining process.


Using data collected from "joint-meeting" cases before the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in 1965-1967, the author provides an analysis of the number and type of cases where tentative agreements have been rejected by the union membership.


The study focuses on the function of ratification in the bargaining process and seeks to identify the problems which may obstruct that procedure.