

# LABOR'S REWARDS

*Itching for what you want doesn't help;  
you've got to scratch for it.*

*What is fair pay for an honest day's work?*

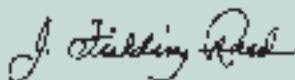
*As an engineering graduate at the time of the Great Depression, my pay was \$2.25 for a 12 hour day, and I felt lucky to get it. In charge of major construction, it was probably the most responsible job I ever had.*

*Today, a professional athlete's income often exceeds a million dollars a year. Pay of executives in the Fortune 500 companies runs into the millions. A sign in my auto shop says labor costs are \$49 an hour. Professors, always considered poorly paid, now may receive \$100,000 or more annually. Engineers, construction tradesmen, autoworkers, accountants...take a look at almost any profession today, and you might be surprised at how the income levels have escalated.*

*Someone asked me, "What about those rich farmers who get 70 cents for one tomato?" How badly misinformed is the public! It's difficult to find accurate figures on rate of earnings per hour for farmers...men and women. Their work hours are long—and with no paid vacation, no sick leave, no health insurance provided, and no retirement program.*

*Yet the hard work and dedication of farmers and their families go largely unnoticed and unappreciated in our society today. While most farmers...men and women...don't draw a regular paycheck, they probably face a more demanding work schedule and considerably more financial risk than almost any of their non-farm neighbors.*

*When I drive past row after row of expensive new houses in the suburbs, I sometimes think of farmers' net incomes and their vital place in our economy. I wonder...how long until we recognize the real value of their contribution?*



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