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Reading Response

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Reading Response

Art Preis presented the arguments in the three strikes that opened the way for the congress of industrial organization (CIO), which was involved in the organization of workers in industrial unions in America between 1935 to 1955. Therefore, the author has provided the flow of volatile labor fights and partisan encounters in the 1930s that developed the industrial unions. Moreover, Preis (1965) stated how the unions were the foundation of the mass social drive changing the United States. Understanding this step would create a substantial realization on how the great step of the exciting history of the American union militancy was established and how it shaped the current society. Also, the arguments presented by the author were an industry-based association disrupted by the obliterating craft designs characterized by the American Federation of Labor. Another argument presented was that the achievements that developed the CIO were not exceptional from the international Union presidents or administrative officials, but the creation of the position and file ingenuity and leadership placing their recognition on activities, arriving at solidarity and generating working class.

Preis presented substantial information that happened between the twenty years of the existence of the CIO. The CIO was completed in the early 1960s, a few years after the reunification of most of the American labor movement. Although Preis was an active participant of the Trotskyist socialist workers, he claimed that the CIO was fueled from below by mass-independent worker militancy and action, which forced bureaucrats and the Stalinist Communist party into supporting radical militant action (Preis, 1965). What I did not like about the text is how Preis blast the CIO union of bureaucracy yet noting its rapid growth from three million AFL members to thirty million AFL-CIO members by 1955. Therefore, these members are explained to be demanding inclusion rather than real choices by top union leadership. The question in this

text is how the CIO criticized bureaucracy and gained so many members between 1929 and 1955?

Reference

Preis, A. (1965). Labor's Giant Step: Twenty Years of the CIO. *Science and Society*, 29(4).

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