

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



David Williams
Director

The Bureau of Industrial Relations is that Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry which studies the conditions existing between employer and employe in the industries of the State to the end that misunderstandings or disagreements may be avoided, or promptly adjusted if they do arise.

The principal duties of the Bureau are therefore to prevent labor disputes between employers and employes or, if unable to prevent, to adjust such trouble, so that harmony may prevail in the industry affected.

COLLECTION OF UNION WAGE SCHEDULES

In addition to giving attention to industrial disputes, the representatives of the Bureau of Industrial Relations also assist the Bureau of Statistics in collecting union wage schedules in cities of Pennsylvania. In connection with these schedules, the representatives of the Bureau must visit all parts of the Commonwealth and confer with representatives of local unions and with employers. The information collected by these representatives is compiled by the Bureau of Statistics and used in reports issued by that Bureau for the Department of Labor and Industry.

The Bureau of Statistics also forwards the data gathered for several of the cities to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor at Washington for use in Federal reports. Due to the fact that the collection of these statistics is gradually being extended to more cities and additional trades, it has become one of the important functions of the Bureau of Industrial Relations.

MEDIATION OF LABOR DISPUTES

The Bureau of Industrial Relations performs that function of the Department outlined in the Administrative Code as follows:

Section 2206. Mediation and Arbitration.—The Department of Labor and Industry shall have the power, and its duties shall be, whenever a difference arises between an employer and his employes with regard to wages, hours, or conditions of employment, to send a representative of the department promptly to the locality in which such difference exists, and endeavor by mediation to effect an amicable settlement of the controversy. If such settlement cannot be effected, and the dispute is submitted for arbitration, the department, in the event of the failure of representatives of employer and employes to name an impartial person to act as chairman of the board of arbitration, shall, if requested by the parties to the dispute, select such person to act as such chairman.

OBSERVANCE OF SAFETY CODES

In addition to the responsibility of attempting to adjust labor disputes arising within the Commonwealth, the Bureau of Industrial Re-