FORUM

Introduction

In this issue the Forum section of the Journal is devoted to a developing area of legal thinking and legal history: "critical labor law theory." This subject has been a matter of some debate by legal thinkers on the Left for several years and is becomingly increasingly significant for those interested in gaining a more complete understanding of the place of labor law and labor relations in American polity and society. In particular, critical labor law theory seeks to use labor law as a lens through which to view the whole of American “ideology” and legal thought and their relationship to our advanced capitalist economy.

The papers printed below were all originally delivered in somewhat different form at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History, in Philadelphia on October 25, 1980. Three of the four pieces are written by well-known legal scholars, and the fourth by a respected labor historian.

As the intent of the Forum is to stimulate thinking and debate, we invite comments, criticisms, and responses to the arguments presented below.