

Labor-Management Fund OK Urged By Lundine

APR 24 1979

Rep. Stanley N. Lundine, D-Jamestown, has urged a House appropriations subcommittee to approve further funding for a program to encourage cooperation between labor and management.

In testimony before the Subcommittee on Labor-HEW Appropriations, Lundine stressed the ability of joint labor-management committees to improve productivity.

"Improving our nation's productivity growth is the key to sustained, non-inflationary economic expansion," Lundine said in a statement. "A wide range of workplaces — whether private manufacturers or municipal governments — could become substantially more productive by fully and effectively utilizing the skills and talents of their workers."

Lundine said dozens of communities and hundreds of individual plants have formed labor-management committees to enable plants to adapt to changing skill requirements and cope with competitive disadvantages.

By increasing productivity and job satisfaction, he said, "these initiatives have meant ... lasting economic benefits for labor, industry and the community as a whole."

Congress established the program to provide financial and technical support to labor-management committees last year, adopting a proposal by Lundine and Sen. Jacob Javits, D-N.Y. The \$10 million program, enacted as part of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act reauthorization, will be administered by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

At the appropriations hearing, Lundine expressed disappointment that the Carter administration had not requested any funds for the program in its fiscal 1980 budget.

"I view this program as an important investment in our country's economic stability," Lundine said.

On April 20 Lundine told the Buffalo-Erie County Labor-Management Council, "Your record here in Buffalo is proof of how much a local committee can accomplish. The range of your activities and concern with effective uses of human resources have meant a great deal to this area."

Community-wide committees also exist in Jamestown and Elmira. In both cases, assistance from the federal government enabled the committee to get started.