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(2) I understand from Dr. Williams, Director of Health, that his department is taking the steps desired by His Honor, the Mayor, in connection with Recommendation No. 2.

(3) Of course, His Honor, the Mayor, can "invite representatives of employers and workers to confer with him, looking to a settlement of the entire controversy." However, this would be a voluntary act on the part of the Executive of the City, with no authority to compel either of the parties to meet him in conference on the subject.

There is a more effective method of dealing with this situation provided by Article 89 of Bagby's Annotated Code of Maryland.

It is there made the duty of the Commissioner of Labor and Statistics:

- (a) To collect statistics concerning and examine into the condition of labor in this State, with especial reference to wages, and the causes of strikes and disagreements between employers and employees. (Section 2, sub-section 1)
- (b) Upon information furnished by an employer of labor, or by a committee of employees, or from any other reliable source, that a controversy or dispute has arisen between employer and employees, involving ten or more persons, which controversy may result in a strike or lock-out, the Commissioner, or his representative, shall at once visit the place of controversy or dispute and seek to mediate between the parties, if in his discretion it is necessary so to do. (Section 4)
- (c) If mediation cannot be effected, the Commissioner, or his representative, may endeavor to secure the consent of the parties to the controversy or dispute to the formation of a board of arbitration. (Section 5)
- (d) Should the Commissioner, or his representative, fail to mediate or secure the consent of the parties to the controversy or dispute to submit the matter to arbitration, then the Commissioner, or his representative, shall proceed to thoroughly investigate the cause of the dispute or controversy, he shall have the authority to summons both parties to appear before him and take their statements, in writing or under oath, and having ascertained which party is, in his judgment, mainly responsible and blameworthy for the continuance of said controversy