

## Join or Else

12-31-58  
THE industrial development in Oklahoma is bringing many people face to face with a decision that has previously seemed far away. That is the question of whether to join a labor union or not. As residents of rural areas and small towns increasingly find jobs in the factories and plants they become a part of the state's labor force.

If the plant where they find employment happens to be a "closed shop" they have no choice except to join a union if they get the job. That may mean they must pay dues to an organization which assumes power to speak for them but in which the individual member may have little or no effective voice. They may not even want to join, but in Oklahoma it's join or else.

The reason is that Oklahoma has not adopted legislation that will protect the working man's right to decide for himself whether he will join a union. Many states have passed these "right-to-work laws," which allow the individual to decide. Some other states have voted them down, in effect saying that the government and labor unions should decide for the workmen.

The question of "right-to-work" laws has come up repeatedly in years past and is likely to be brought up again in the coming legislative session. Because few, if any, unions favor right-to-work laws, legislators are reluctant to act. Businessmen, farmers and working people must join together to make their voices heard in the legislative halls if they want to restore this fundamental right of free men to Oklahoma citizens.