HIS 949

Jessica Feltner

Timeline Elements

9/20/12

The Organization of the National Child Labor Committee, 1907

In 1907, the child labor reform organization, the National Child Labor Committee earned a charter from Congress. Using this charter, the National Child Labor Committee employed many investigators and photographers, including the New York City schoolteacher, Lewis Hine, in order to expose and document the horrors of child labor. The government responded to their report and in 1912 formed the Children’s Bureau, later reassigned to the Department of Labor. More progress came about in 1916, when the Keating’s Owens Act set restrictions on child labor, only to regress when the Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional on grounds of labor not being under Congressional authority because it was not part of interstate commerce. While federal laws did not succeed until Roosevelt’s New Deal in the 1930’s, reformers accomplished many child labor bans at the state level by 1920.1

1. “Teaching With Documents: Photographs of Lewis Hine: Documentation of Child Labor.” National Archives. Accessed Sept 11, 2012.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hine-photos/#documents>.