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**ECONOMICS, LABOR & BUSINESS**


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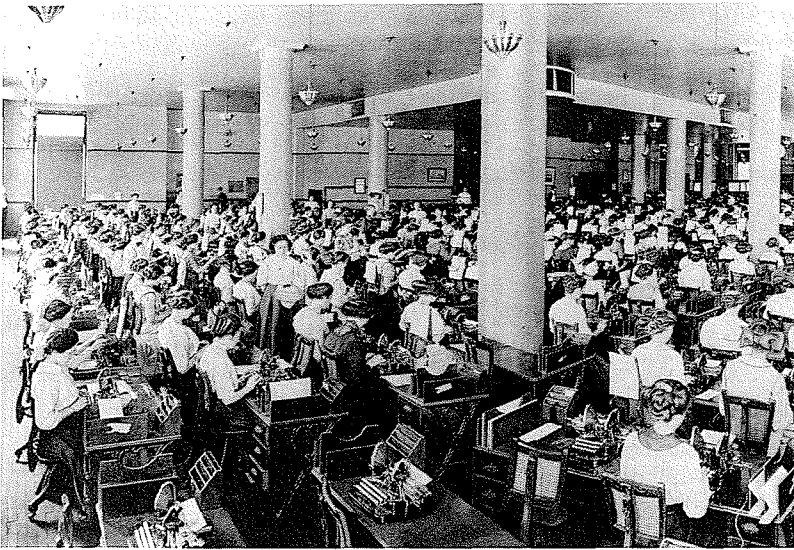
1962 recognizing federal employee unions and allowing limited collective bargaining. State and local governments adopted similar regulations, although the powers given to their employee unions differed. During the 1960s and '70s, some state governments gave employee unions more clout (e.g., by requiring binding arbitration to solve disputes) making membership more attractive.

Why are government unions losing members more slowly than their counterparts in business? Freeman sees U.S. corporations as more fervently "antiunion" than during past decades. Executives in industry who oppose unions and union wage demands can increase profits; mayors or governors who try to thwart employee unions may find themselves losing the next election.

### *Tool for Success*

"The Difficult Birth of the Typewriter" by Cynthia Monaco, in *American Heritage of Invention & Technology* (Spring/Summer 1988), 60 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

The modern typewriter, invented by Christopher Sholes, first appeared in the United States in 1874. But his invention, the "Remington," was not an immediate success, though it was popular at expositions like the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, where fairgoers could buy typewritten letters for 25 cents. In addition, a few celebrities, notably Mark Twain, were en-



*Clerks typing in a large American mail-order house around 1912. At least 112 writing machines preceded the Remington. The first English typewriter patent was in 1714; the first American patent dates to 1829.*

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tranced by the machine, but only 4,000 were sold in four years.

Why did the typewriter take so long to become a success? Monaco, a free-lance writer, cites economic, commercial, and social reasons. First, the country experienced a major recession in 1873, making the typewriter's \$125 price too expensive for most people when per capita personal income was less than \$200 a year. Second, Sholes mismarketed his machine, targeting the government and individuals (e.g., men of letters) as potential buyers rather than selling it to business managers as a record-keeping tool. (The first 16 typewriters to leave the Remington plant were shipped to court reporters, in the hope that they would provide favorable testimonials.) Third, typewritten correspondence was deemed insulting. A typewritten letter, observes Monaco, "suggested either that the sender thought the receiver was incapable of deciphering handwriting or that the letter was really an advertising circular." Lastly, there was a fear of forgery; the signatures of early typewritten letters were typed. It did not seem to occur to anyone to do otherwise.

In 1878, the "Remington No. 2" appeared on the market. It was a more practical machine, offering such needed improvements as a shift key, which allowed upper and lower case letters on the same keyboard. These innovations came at a time when businesses were starting to expand from sole proprietorships into large organizations with specialized units; the typewriter satisfied the demand for more complex record keeping and efficient communication between departments. Even a mediocre typist, Monaco notes, was more productive than a pen-wielding clerk.

By 1886, "almost every sizable office" employed a typist. By 1888, demand for Remingtons far exceeded the 18,000 produced each year, and by 1891 the Remington had dozens of competitors. Yet resistance to the typewriter persisted; Sears, Roebuck and Company still sent handwritten letters to its rural customers for years after the typewriter was widely accepted. And only in 1899 did the U.S. Treasury Department begin keeping its records in typewritten form.

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## SOCIETY

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### *Day-Care Debate*

"Brave New World" by Karl Zinsmeister, in *Policy Review* (Spring 1988), Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

A rising number of children in the United States are being raised by hired workers, rather than by parents or family. A 1984 Census Bureau study reported that eight percent of working mothers rear their children themselves, 40 percent give them to relatives during the day, and 52 percent hire others to tend their offspring.

However, according to Zinsmeister, a free-lance writer and demographer, evidence is growing indicating that, overall, no form of day care by outsiders can match the care mothers (and fathers) give to young children.