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March, 25, 2012  
AP Language  
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The "Democratic" Government does NOT Enact the will of the People

A democracy is supposed to protect and hear the voice of all people, no matter if you are in poverty or in wealth. The purpose of a democratic government is to enact the will of the people. During the industrial era the democratic government did not enact the will of the people. People worked many hours risking their lives in factories, getting little pay, not being able to provide enough food and other needs for their family.

The democratic government did not enact the will of the people. Laws prohibiting the hiring of children under fourteen years old were blatantly ignored. Children were exposed to severe working conditions at very young ages. "Toiling long, late hours delivering large stacks of heavy papers for a dollar a day, young newsboy worked to the point of exhaustion." (Source F) Kids were not able to play outside and get full rest because they have worked so much. In the book *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair Jurgis had to take the kids out of school so that they could work and make money for the family since the adults in the family were not making sufficient amount money. Families needed their children to work because just one job for the parents is not bringing enough money to provide for their family, so they were given no choice. Many children under the age of fourteen years old died from dangerous jobs leaving their family without money and children.

The democratic government did not enact the will of the people. Many children tried to go to school during and work during the night but were unsuccessful. "Many tried to attend school during the day and work at night or in the early morning, many failed." (Source F) The government should have enforced school for all the children. The

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government could have enacted the will of the people by making a law which allow and/or guaranteed that the working children were only allowed to work after school, only for a certain amount of hours.

The democratic government did not enact the will of the people. The corrupt business was the reason why the young people and laborers did not thrive in America during the industrial era. The factory owners made the workers in the factories do very dangerous and rigorous task that injured many workers or even killed them. "The work was extremely hazardous. Youngsters often fell to their death down the chute, or burned or smothered in the mine fires."- describing the conditions in a Coal Chute in South Pittston, Pennsylvania (Source E) Little children died from going down coal chutes. Working with machines would break their arms but laborers did not have the money to get it fixed, making it difficult to find another job with a broken arm. In the Jungle by Upton Sinclair Jurgis injured himself a few times while working. Jurgis burned his arm while helping someone at work. Burning his arm led into Jurgis not being able work and make money.

The democratic government did not enact the will of the people. Bosses or owners of factories raped women, knowing that they would not risk losses their job by telling on their boss. In the Jungle Ona, Jurgis wife had a job at the factory and did not come home some nights. Jurgis wondered why his wife Ona was missing. When Jurgis found out that Ona did not come home from work some nights because her bosses was raping her he was livid. Jurgis rushed to factory to attack him. Ona did not want to tell because she was afraid she would loose her job. Women really did not have a choice to leave because it will be very hard to come across another job. Everyone is competing for work. The

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women do not like getting raped but they desperately need money and the bosses knew that and took advantage other the female laborers.

The democratic government did not enact the will of the people. The laborers received high working hours and only low wages. Workers worked numerous hours, early in the morning till late at night. The workers did not get the pay that showed that. The workers were cheated out of their money and lost money for falling asleep and coming in to work late.

In conclusion the government does not protect and hear the voice of all people in poverty or in wealth. During the industrial era the government allowed the factory owners to ignore that children under fourteen years old could not be hired. The government allowed low class workers to work long hours and not get paid much leaving them with no money to provide food and needs for their family. The government allowed people to risk their lives in airless, dark and high death chance factories. Therefore the government did not enact the will of the people during the industrial era.