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## AFL Charges Favoritism In Stabilization Policy

### Agencies Give Invitation To Strike, Watt Warns

Washington, D. C. — The American Federation of Labor publicly charged that the government's new stabilization policy fails to assure "equality of treatment for all workers" and constitutes an invitation to strike.

Sharply dissenting from new regulations announced by the National Wage Stabilization Board, Robert J. Watt, AFL member, bluntly declared that the board's "conception of the government's so-called wage policy" closes the door on millions of workers who prefer the orderly procedure of collective bargaining to going on strike.

"It is an invitation to these workers to resort to other means to gain their just and equal rights," Mr. Watt warned.

"The statement of policy adopted by the board's majority is full of uncertainties and can only contribute more confusion to an already serious situation with the inevitable result of further unrest."

Mr. Watt asserted that the Executive Order issued by President Truman after settlement of the steel strike established a general wage standard an increase of 15-12 cents an hour above the wage rate in effect August 18, 1945.

He charged that Stabilization Director Bowles on February 21 issued a general order giving government approval to such increases in basic steel, iron mining, steel processing and steel fabricating where such increases were put into effect in settlement of strikes existing February 14. But the same benefits were denied to workers in similar plants not on strike at that date.

Thus, Mr. Watt pointed out, a privileged class was created for strikers and other workers frozen out.

The new regulations issued by the National Wage Stabilization Board bore out Mr. Watt's charges. The board announced it would not be guided by any single

wage pattern for the nation but would establish or recognize industry-wide or area-wide wage patterns. When these patterns become "sufficiently well-defined," wage increases coming within their scope can be put into effect without prior board approval.

The question of what constitutes a "general pattern," said the board, will depend upon the circumstances and the historical relationships and practices presented in a given case.

Settlements which have been made only as interim settlements, "with further adjustments clearly being contemplated by the parties, cannot, of course, be considered as setting patterns," the board stated.

The board pointed out that where no pattern has been established wage and salary increases are allowable for price-relief purposes "only to the extent they are found necessary to remove gross inequalities as between related industries, plants or classifications, to correct substandard wage conditions or to eliminate disparities between wage or salary increases and the increase in the cost of living."

The inequity standard, said the board, permits and requires a consideration of cross-industry inequities. This comparison will be made both in terms of wage "rate" levels and wage "increases."

At least two types of inter-industry relationships are recognized. The first includes "those relationships sometimes, although not always, reflected in such factors as the similarity or interdependence of products, or management or union identity." A second type "would be reflected in a similarity of wage-rate structures on a parallelism of job classifications even as between two industries which "might seek their products in entirely different markets."

In considering a claim of "gross inequities as between rates between related industries, the board said, "it would be relevant that the effects of reconversion developments upon wage or salary conditions have been the same or different in the two industries."

### SEEK SECURITY FOR 21 MILLION UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

Washington, D. C. — Insurance coverage for 21 million additional persons, including household domestics and farmers, and larger benefit payments under the Social Security Act, were proposed by A. J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board.

Altmeyer presented 5 points in his recommendations for changes in old-age and survivors insurance in his testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee. They were:

- (1) Extension to all persons gainfully employed.
- (2) Coverage for the self-employed.
- (3) Increased benefits under both old-age and survivors insurance.
- (4) Permanent disability benefits.
- (5) Methods for financing.

Altogether, Altmeyer told the committee, 84 million social security cards have been issued, although only 41 million persons still have an insured status. In extending the coverage, he estimates, about 21 million more would be insured.

**Suggests Stamp-Book System.** These would include farm workers, domestics, employees of non-profit institutions, veterans, employees of federal, state and local governments, railroad workers and self-employed, including small shopkeepers, plumbers, barbers, tailors, etc.

In providing for collections of insurance premiums from much of this group, he suggested a stamp-book system, operating through the postal department. For farm owners and self-employed he suggested use of income-tax returns as a method of determining the extent of their participation.

The formula for increasing the benefits would be to increase the amount of wages counted for benefit payments from \$3,000 to \$3,600 a year. The benefits would be

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### TRIBUTE TO SERVICE WOMEN



Photo by Dringan  
**VICTORY MEDAL WINNER.** Lt. Eunice Whyte, Washington, D. C., won her award for efficient service at Washington and Floyd Bennett Field, N. Y. You share the post-war reconversion job with Lt. Whyte by buying Victory Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Department

### UNION EDUCATION

The Workers Education Bureau of America will hold its 25th anniversary conference and convention April 5 and 6 at the Hotel Commodore, Director John D. Connors announced.

Highlighting the agenda will be a discussion of the recently announced workers' education extension service planned by the Department of Labor.

Another panel discussion will deal with the Labor Press and its contributions to the education of the nation's workers.

Speakers at the 25th anniversary dinner closing the conference include AFL President William Green, Secretary of Labor Schwelbenschach and Secretary - Treasurer George Meany.

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION AUXILIARY TO MEET WITH MRS. CLEAVER

Woman's Auxiliary 107 to Charlotte Typographical Union No. 338 will meet Monday night, March 25 at 8:00 o'clock at the home of Mrs. E. G. Cleaver, 1609 Scott Avenue. All members are urged to attend.

## Higher Wage Reported Out By Senate Committee

### WOLL ASKS EQUAL RECOGNITION WITH WFTU IN GERMANY

New York City.—Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, demanded that the federation be granted equal recognition with the World Federation of Trade Unions by the allied military governments in Germany, and full freedom to work with German trade unions in all occupation zones.

Mr. Woll, chairman of the Free Trade Union Committee of the Labor League for Human Rights, in a League cablegram to Irving J. Brown, AFL representative in Europe, declared that "we categorically deny the right of the WFTU to speak for the predominant group of organized labor in America."

Instructing Mr. Brown to present the AFL's official demand to the Control Council in Berlin and to the representatives of the four occupying powers, Mr. Woll asserted that "we base our demand on the UNO official decision granting equal recognition to AFL with all other labor organizations, national or international in scope." In a cabled reply, Mr. Brown stated that he had filed the demand through the State Department and was preparing to go to Berlin to appear before the council.

AFL interest in "the development of a genuine free trade union movement throughout Germany as the best guarantor of a democratic and peaceful Germany" was cited by Mr. Woll.

"What is more," Mr. Woll pointed out, "the interest of the AFL in the development of bona fide free trade unions as the bulwark of a peaceful and democratic Germany is not of recent origin or dictated by a desire to gain narrow organization advantage in the international labor movement. Even in the darkest hours of the war, even in the moments of the most bitter struggle, the AFL was true to the solidarity of international labor and vigorously rejected every proposal for organizing slave labor battalions of German

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### Education And Labor Group Favors 65c Minimum

Washington, D. C.—An immediate increase of the minimum wage to 65 cents an hour and extension of minimum wage and overtime coverages to employees of "any employer whose business affects commerce" were recommended as amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Law of 1938 by the Senate's Committee on Education and Labor.

Senators Tunnell of Delaware and Pepper of Florida, reporting for the majority, insisted that an immediate advance to at least 65 cents was imperative.

"With a national income of \$160,000,000,000," they contended "a 65-cent minimum wage yields the worker at substandard wages a smaller proportion of the nation's increased wealth than a 40-cent minimum yielding him with the \$64,000,000,000 national income of 1938. While national income per capita has risen over 100 per cent in seven years (at least 75 per cent when adjusted for price changes), the income of the underpaid has not risen in anything like the same proportion."

The proposed bill broadens the coverage of the act to include seamen so far as minimum wages are concerned but not as to overtime.

Describing the purpose of the bill, Senators Tunnell and Pepper said:

"It is but a preliminary step toward our eventual goal of full employment at high wages for all; but it is as great a step as our economy can afford to take at one time. It must be taken at once if we are not to be faced with an ever-increasing multitude of underfed, underhoused, underprivileged workers."

"On behalf of the other members of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor who have approved the legislation described in this report, I urge immediate action by the Congress to the end that substandards of wages in interstate commerce shall be once and for all abolished from the national scene."

The bill provides that in two years after enactment the statu-

tory minimum wage shall be raised to 70 cents an hour and in five years to 75 cents

As in the present law, industry committees, composed of employer, labor and public members, will be permitted to adjust minimum wages upward more rapidly than provided in the bill—but no higher than the ceiling of 75 cents.

A minority report suggesting an immediate rise to 55 cents and an ultimate level of 60 cents was brought in by six members who called the majority proposals inflationary.

Two Democratic Senators, E. Lender of Louisiana and Fulbright of Arkansas, joined with Senators Taft of Ohio, Ball of Minnesota, New Jersey in condemning the wage scale proposed by the majority and the clauses expanding coverage of the current act.

The bill, likely to come up for consideration in 10 days, seems destined to bring on a long wrangle in the Senate. It had a stormy time in committee, where differences reached such a point that the members were hurriedly called together by its supporters in a futile effort to reach a compromise.

### KNITGOODS WORKERS GAIN GOOD WAGE INCREASES

Brooklyn—Increase in wages for all knitgoods workers was announced by the Knitgoods Workers' Union as a result of negotiations with the United Knitwear Manufacturers League.

All members of the union, which is a division of the International Ladies Garment Workers, receiving up to \$29.99 are to receive a \$4 increase. Those who receive \$30 and over are to receive a \$5 increase. Piece workers are to receive an increase of 15 cents per hour.

The collective bargaining agreement between the union and the employers contains an escalator clause providing for increases in the event of an increase in the cost of living.

## Hear "Cross-Section AFL" Opening April 6 On CBS

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor inaugurates a new series of 13 weekly radio programs over the Columbia Broadcasting System beginning April 6.

The name of the new program is "Cross-Section, AFL." It will be presented at 3:45 p. m., Eastern Time, Saturdays.

The purpose of the new radio series is just what its name implies—to give the radio audience a cross-section idea of what the AFL is, the kind of work its members do, the policies its unions espouse, and the results it has obtained for American workers.

This will not be the usual stereotyped studio broadcast. It will originate in each case from the actual site of the job, with occupational noise in the background as Bill Downs, ace CBS commentator interviews workers, union representatives and in some cases co-operating employers.

The interviews will not be the ordinary kind, read from a canned script, but lively questions and answers given extemporaneously.

The first program April 6 will deal with the building trades in New York City and emanate from a construction job. Those appearing on this program will be Howard McSpedon, president of the New York City Building Trades Council; Peter W. Eller, president of the Thompson-Starrett Construction Co. and head of the New York Building Trades Employers Association, and a worker chosen at random from the job.

Following programs will deal with the metal trades, railway employees, the printing trades and mine workers. In preparation are also programs on truck transportation, garment trades, government employes and white collar workers. In addition, there will be included regional reports from the South, New England, Midwest and Pacific Coast.

Don't miss these exciting radio programs. Listen every week beginning April 6 to CBS at 3:45 p. m. Eastern Time for "Cross-Section, AFL."

Have you paid your subscription to The Labor Journal for the new year? If not send it in today.

### SPEAKING OF HOUSING



Courtesy Associate America, Inc.

## President Should Stay Out Of Labor Disputes—Davis

Chicago.—President Truman and his government agencies ought to get out of labor disputes and stay out, William H. Davis, former chairman of the War Labor Board, said here.

"True collective bargaining that maintains the liberties of both labor and management is the most lasting solution to wage controversy," Mr. Davis declared.

He conceded, however, that arbitration was the only way out in cases where emotions were aroused and prestige became involved.

Mr. Davis described Mr. Truman as a good man with sound instincts but added that he should shun labor relations because "he doesn't know his way around."

"As a result of exasperation," he continued, "there is a strong tendency in Congress right now toward greater efforts by the federal government to arbitrate in labor disputes."

"Aside from a possible strengthening of the conciliation service, I wouldn't shed a tear if President Truman were to say that the government wouldn't interfere for a year in these controversies. Let the parties concerned bargain and

bargain. They'd settle things."

Mr. Davis, now a patent attorney, likened the War Labor Board to a cactus:

"Anyone who tried to lean on us got stuck."

He gave the opinion that price control should be continued until production caught up with demand, with the administration removing ceilings on as many articles as possible. Stable prices, by enabling a manufacturer to know his costs far in advance, are an aid rather than a hindrance to increased production, he said.

### DAVE BECK ELECTED TO UNION LABEL BOARD

Washington, D. C.—Dave Beck, international vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, was elected to membership on the executive board of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Beck replaced the late John M. Gillespie, former secretary-treasurer of the teamsters' international.