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WILLIAM GREEN URGES EXTENSION OF OPA

AFL Chief Warns Of Boom And Collapse If Controls Are Dropped

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green called on Congress to extend OPA price and rent controls for another year.

He warned that otherwise a runaway boom will develop that inevitably will result in another depression.

"The people are tired of emergency and they are tired of controls," he told the House Banking and Currency Committee. "But they are also frightened. They are frightened by the brazen display of financial and political pressure exerted upon their government in a reckless and irresponsible drive to destroy price control and profit from its destruction at the expense of the mass of the people. The people are frightened at the prospect of the feverish runaway price boom which is already close upon them.

"They are frightened by the spectre of the next depression which will follow swiftly and inevitably if we don't prevent the runaway boom now and thus invite the collapse it will precipitate. Their fear does not come from the lack of courage or confidence. They have limitless determination to make reconversion to full production and full employment a success. But they know that while the war is won the grave postwar emergency of economic readjustment is by no means past.

"Every day the American consumer—the breadwinner, the housewife—hears the rising clamor for the immediate and complete abandonment of price controls. They watch the pressures exerted upon their Congress from all sides—the pressures which are gaining the momentum of a stampede to throw overboard the very steering gear which alone can guide the nation toward stability, prosperity and lasting freedom. And they say to the Congress: that must not be done!"

Mr. Green, however, did not give blanket endorsement to OPA controls. He charged OPA has permitted exorbitant increases in prices of clothes and shoes and other consumer articles.

But, at the same time he defended the OPA against the charge that has clamped the brakes on expansion of post war production. He said:

"The OPA is being charged repeatedly with interposing price

control as a barrier against rising production. The record of the last few months shows that the OPA met the industries' demand or higher prices more than half way. Instead of being rigid and restrictive it has granted a large number of price increase far higher than the facts and the economic conditions had warranted.

"Since the end of the war in Europe, OPA has issued more than 150 'incentive' price increases in response to the claim of the manufacturers that these increases were needed to aid production in the reconversion period. There have been a number of instances in which manufacturers combined in an industry-wide demand for a certain price under the threat that they would halt production unless their demand was met on their terms. There are glaring instances also showing that where OPA acted to meet such demands, instead of increased production came renewed pressures for still higher prices under renewed threats of the seller's strike."

Mr. Green strongly urged upon the committee that OPA be given an extension for a year "without weakening amendments." Citing many price controls that already have been removed and plans to remove others; he warned that greatest care must be exercised lest orderly reconversion be thrown out of balance. Referring to the housing problem, Mr. Green told the committee:

"There are a few areas in which special problems of price control and cost of living will persist to which special consideration must be given. The most important of such areas is rent control, which must be continued unimpaired for a full year beyond the expiration of the present law and probably for another year after that date. The housing shortage will remain extremely acute during that time.

"There is already a widespread real estate boom. Evictions of tenants are already numerous and many are directly traceable to the desire of property owners to cash in on the inflated market. When this happens, the tenant families are thrown completely on the doubtful mercy of the inflated market. They are forced to choose between homelessness and moving into slums. We must not allow the forces of inflation to force American families out of their homes."

Boilermakers Gain Raises Without Strike

Kansas City, Kan.—When President Truman declared at a recent White House press conference that newspapers play up strikes in big headlines but ignore the vast number of wage disputes that are settled peacefully, he was "dead right," in the opinion of Charles J. McGowan, president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

"The vast majority of industrial disputes," he said, "especially those in which AFL unions are involved, are being adjusted around the conference table, without fanfare of any kind.

"Our own union, the boilermakers, is a typical example. We haven't had a strike in the entire reconversion period since V-J Day. We have not a man on strike today. We believe that's front page

news in any man's language, but it's not the sort of news the daily papers seem to want.

"Since V-J Day our locals have negotiated wage increases with hundreds of employers, ranging all the way from 10 to 25 cents an hour—all without a minute's loss of work. Every day new agreements of the same kind, carrying substantial raises, come across my desk. They are all reached by collective bargaining.

"Together with other AFL unions we obtained an 18 cents an hour increase for the shipyard workers on the West Coast without threat of a stoppage. We're negotiating now for the same raise on other coasts and the Great Lakes, and we do not anticipate there will be any need to consider a strike."



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Washington 1, D. C.
January 30, 1946

Mr. R. G. Thomas, Corresponding Secretary
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111 West Washington Street
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Sir and Brother:

The Trade Union Courier has never been endorsed or approved by the American Federation of Labor. It has no relationship to the American Federation of Labor. Its representatives have no right or authority to use the name of the American Federation of Labor in soliciting advertisements.

You were quite right in advising the [redacted] Company not to pay the \$50.00 for an advertisement in the Trade Union Courier.

I appreciate your sending me the enclosures in your letter dated January 19, 1946. I am trying to assemble all the information I can regarding this policy and action of the representatives of the Trade Union Courier. I will welcome such further information as you can send me.

We shall continue our fight against publications such as the Trade Union Courier which uses the name of the American Federation of Labor in the solicitation of advertisements.

Fraternally yours,

W. Green
President
American Federation of Labor

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Labor and Management Set Up Working Funds

New York City.—Labor and management in the New York electrical construction industry have announced the setting up of a \$6,000 fund for prizes for suggestions from workers on the job to lower the cost and help speed home building.

The winning prize will be \$2,000 in cash in addition to interim prizes ranging from \$350 in victory bonds down to smaller cash awards.

The fund was set up by the New York Electrical Contractors' Association, Inc., and Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, each organization contributing \$3,000.

Creation of the prize fund follows a recent decision by Local 3 and 364 contractors to promote the use of high-speed tools, equipment, and methods in an effort to speed housing construction. The unions and employers also exchanged no-strike, no lock-out pledges for the duration of the housing shortage. The union also has voluntarily relinquished its contractual right to time-and-one-half for overtime and agreed to work two shifts at regular rates.

Employers and the union also announced the formation of a coordinating committee for improving installation practices for the electrical contracting industry. Members of this committee, which is composed of workers and em-

ployers, will judge the winning awards.

The 10,000 construction members of the electrical union have been notified by mail of the purpose, terms and conditions of the contest. All journeymen, foremen and superintendents, who are members of Local 3, are eligible to participate.

In discussing the formation of the \$6,000 prize fund, Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., business manager of Local 3, said:

"The problem in the electrical construction industry is not wages, hours, or conditions, but rather to make labor and management more productive as part of a sound reconversion program.

Efrem A. Kahn, president of the New York Electrical Contractors' Association, Inc., said:

"We are determined to make drastic cuts in the cost of electrical construction in New York. Workers in the industry need have no fear that the use of streamlined methods and high-speed tools will reduce employment opportunities. As construction gets under way there is very likely to be a tight labor situation. The next 10 years will be primarily a building decade.

"It is to be hoped that employers and workers in other building trades join us in this effort to speed construction and lower the cost of dwellings for housing-hungry people."

CONFIDENCE



VETERANS REJECT SUPERSENIORITY

Grand Haven, Mich.—War veterans themselves don't want "superiority"—that is, the right to "bump" older workers from their jobs regardless of length of service.

That was demonstrated at a meeting here of Local No. 50 of the AFL Auto Workers' Union. The local represents workers at

the Oldberg Manufacturing Co.

Ex-service men who are members of the local were asked to decide the issue themselves. By an overwhelming vote, they rejected the "superiority" idea and favored reliance instead upon provisions of the union contract which carries seniority safeguards for all alike—veterans and nonveterans.

AFL Pledge Goes For A Great Navy

Philadelphia—President William Green pledged the American Federation of Labor's support for the construction and maintenance of a navy "second to none" as a national defense measure and to prevent outbreak of a third world war.

Speaking at a dinner given by the AFL Metal Trades Council in Philadelphia and attended by many high navy and government officials, Mr. Green said:

"The United Nations Organization was based upon the praiseworthy idea that disputes between nations should be settled according to the principles of justice. Unfortunately, there are still some nations which regard justice as a one way street—nations which do not hesitate to employ force to gain their ends. Let us remember that powers which are willing to use force respect only greater force."

Mr. Green warned that America does not intend to waste the great sacrifices of the last war by lack of continuous vigilance and preparedness. He assailed those who regard the navy as an "extinct form of national defense" and seek curtailment of appropriations for naval construction and experiment.

At the same time, the AFL chief criticized the influences within the navy who are inclined to ignore the value and the contributions of the civilian AFL metal trades workers employed in the navy yards. He insisted that organized labor is an "important member" of the team which makes up the navy and should be recognized as such.

After relating the great services rendered to the war effort by the navy's Seabees, 80 per cent of whom were recruited from the ranks of organized labor, Mr. Green added:

"Well, the blood-brothers and the union brothers of the Seabees are employed today in the navy yards and in the armament, plants of the nation. They are deeply concerned about America's post-war navy. They want it equipped to defend America against enemy attack, by atomic bomb or otherwise. They want it strong enough to maintain and safeguard world peace. They want new ships for the navy and sufficient personnel to man those ships and to conduct the construction, repair and maintenance work of the shore establishments. They want a navy second to none.

"I am convinced that if the official policy of the navy gives them the opportunity, these civilian Seabees will do their utmost to make the United States Navy second to none."

MICHAEL FOX NAMED TO ASSIST JEWELL

Chicago.—The AFL Railway Employes' department announced that Michael Fox, veteran member of the Electrical Workers, has been selected as assistant to President Bert M. Jewell of the department and has embarked upon his new duties.

He fills the vacancy created by the recent death of Alfred S. Lawrence, who like Fox had been a member of the IBEW.

Joining Local 817 of the Electrical Workers back in 1927, Fox was quickly elected a trustee. Later, he became secretary and local chairman. In 1944, he joined the staff of the Federal Apprentice Training Service and while with that agency helped set up a "model" apprentice system in the shops of the New York Central.