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Frankness Between Capital and Labor Urged By Ornburn

CONGRESS MOVES TO INCREASE PAY OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Washington, D. C. — Congress moved on two fronts to increase the pay of the Federal government's million white-collar employees who have been hard hit by rising living costs.

A House Civil Service subcommittee recommended a flat 17 per cent basic pay raise to take effect July 1. This was higher than the increase approved by the Senate but fell short of the 25 per cent increase demanded by AFL unions representing government employees.

At the same time, the House Post Office committee approved an annual \$400 increase for Uncle Sam's 400,000 postal employees. This 18 per cent boost meets the demands of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and other AFL unions in this field.

The AFL Government Employees Council is now pressing for prompt final action on these pay measures in order to avoid last-minute obstacles which may develop when members of Congress begin the rush to adjourn their session so they can undertake re-election campaigns.

The council also lashed out at Senator Byrd of Virginia and other congressional reactionaries who want to make increased pay contingent on reduction of the number of government employees on the U. S. pay roll.

"This council suggests that injecting any element of enforced reduction in government personnel as part of the pending salary bill would prevent consideration of the pay legislation on its merits," said a message sent to all members of Congress.

"The Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor makes no attempt to say what the size of the labor force in the government shall be. It does, however, hold the definite view that those who are hired must be paid in accordance with fair methods."

President James B. Burns, of the American Federation of Government Employees, summoned an emergency meeting of the union's executive council to mobilize a full-scale campaign to obtain prompt action from Congress on the pay legislation.

STATE AGENCY RECOVERS \$50,000 IN UNPAID WAGES

San Diego, Calif.—Nearly \$50,000 in unpaid wages was recovered during 1945 by the San Diego office of the State Labor Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Stanley M. Gue announced. This represents an increase of more than 15 per cent over the amount recovered in 1944.

Mapping Conference On Postwar Labor Problems

Kansas City, Kan.—Plans are being whipped into shape at headquarters here for a significant national conference on problems confronting the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

The parley, to be held in Denver, will bring together chiefs of the union, international representatives, railroad general chairmen, local business agents and many leaders of local lodges. Nearly 500 are expected to attend.

Similar confabs have been held annually during the past several years. At each there has been a frank interchange of opinions on the union's economic problems and

Chicago.—Settlement of industrial grievances through collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration without any interference from Federal authorities was urged by I. M. Ogburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades department, in a radio address delivered over the American Broadcasting Company network.

"Both parties must be free in our American system," Mr. Ogburn said. "Neither one should be dominated by nor have any assistance from a political administration. That would be unfair to one or the other. It would not be a voluntary procedure in our free economic system."

"The union label is a symbol that stands for these principles so often enunciated by the American Federation of Labor. It is the emblem of fairness toward employer and employe alike. It is the mark of mutual good-will and co-operation. I sincerely believe that through collective bargaining, established with AFL labor unions, that sufficient purchasing power can be obtained to create full employment in America; stabilize our economy; create improved standards of living; and insure peacetime prosperity. I believe that through intelligent buying of union label products and the use of union-marked services that our union-earned money will eventually create a higher American standard of living for all.

"Up to date, the union label is the best peacetime plan that has been submitted to solve our industrial problems. No general formula can be created by bureaucrats in Washington or by Congress that will fit into the intricate problems of each and every industry. There is such a great difference in the methods of our varied industries that in many cases a blanket formula would work great injustices.

"We believe that each industry should solve its separate labor relations in each sphere and category. Conferences, composed of representatives of labor and management for each industry could immediately establish basic principles such as hours, wages, and working conditions. Then there could also be determined the future output for each industry so that employment could be stabilized. Furthermore, adequate protection against competitive products of other lands which often ruin small businesses in America should be obtained in order that our market can be protected for our own workers and our own industries."

SENATE ASKS DOCTORS TO AID IN HEALTH LAW

Washington, D. C.—Public health and medical agencies were invited to tell Congress how it can legislate to give 140 million Americans longer life and less disease in the next five years.

Chairman James E. Murray of the Senate Education and Labor committee announced that he had sent questionnaires to more than 180 professional health and medical organizations.

Opening sessions of the Denver meeting during the first day or two will be attended by all delegates. Then the conference will break up into separate "clinics" on each of the industries in which the Boilermakers are represented, including railroads, shipbuilding, construction and contract shops.

Among subjects to be considered are: Wage and employment trends since V-E and V-J Days, the wage movement on the railroads and in shipyards, the outlook in construction and in manufacturing shops, expanded organizing activities, America's future merchant marine, jobs for returning war veterans, and many other postwar problems.

Mr. Hines pointed out that a congressional committee had recommended the appointment of a commission of full time experts to undertake a study and analysis of postwar immigration problems. He urged that this study be undertaken before Congress attempts to change existing immigration laws.

Odd Ailments
Jimmy—Have you ever had hives?
Johnny—No, but I've had measles and mumps.

Union Label—Always in Style!



Unemployment Total Rises; Total Is Now 2,700,000

OPPOSES LEGISLATION TO CUT EXISTING IMMIGRATION QUOTAS

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor told the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization that it opposes pending legislation to curtail existing immigration quotas.

AFL Legislative Representative Lewis G. Hines testified:

"The United States is a humanitarian nation and we have done our share up to the present time to provide a haven for refugees. I believe most of our citizens desire that the United States set an example for other nations by continuing to offer succor to the oppressed and displaced persons uprooted as a result of war. Our nation has a large share of responsibility in the maintenance of a peaceful world.

"The American Federation of Labor therefore feels that we should maintain our present immigration quotas as an indication to the world that we intend to remain an active participant in world affairs. To do otherwise, and especially to reduce our immigration quotas, would indicate that we are not willing to accept the responsibility of leadership."

A new Labor Department report showed that gross hourly and weekly earnings of factory workers reached their highest level since V-J Day in December and retained that position in January. Workers in the light industries averaged almost 53 cents per hour, the highest ever received by such employes, as many groups reported increases due to recent upward wage adjustment.

The average work week for all manufacturing was 41.6 hours in December, almost one-half hour longer than in November. Weekly earnings for all manufacturing averaged \$41.43 in December, about 60 cents more than in November, but \$4 less than in July.

The only sizable decrease in weekly pay were in the auto and tobacco groups, the Labor Department found.

Washington, D. C.—Unemployment continued to rise throughout the country during February despite gains in construction, mining, and trade, government reports showed.

Nonagricultural employment dropped 285,000 bringing the total number of jobless to 2,700,000, about 400,000 more than in January. The number of production workers in manufacturing industries was 9,667,000, the lowest figure in five years, 3,500,000 less than a year ago.

Meanwhile, although initial claims for unemployment compensation dropped by 4,400, waiting period claims rose from 144,000 to 156,000 during the week ending March 9. An employment increase of 84,000 in the nondurable goods industries was noted and increases of about 25,000 workers each were reported by the textile and apparel groups. In the textile and apparel industries larger supplies of raw materials and the growing number of returning veterans made possible the addition of 51,000 workers over the month. Other significant increases occurred in the leather and printing industries.

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JAX UNIONS RENDER GENUINE SERVICE TO RETURNING VETERANS

Jacksonville, Fla. (SLPA)—The Jacksonville Central Labor Union, under direction of President Charles G. Smith and his executive board, has named a Central Labor Union Veterans Advisory Committee to work and plan with civic groups and veteran's agencies in the task of rendering still greater services to veterans. Local unions affiliated with the Jacksonville Central Labor Union are doing excellent work in their respective training programs.

Seventy veterans of World War II are now serving apprenticeship in the carpenters trade in Jacksonville, 50 of whom are being sponsored by Carpenters Local Union No. 627. E. P. St. John, President of Local No. 627, is serving as secretary of the apprenticeship committee of the Carpenters District Council.

Ted Harris, business agent of Bricklayers Local Union No. 19, announces that twenty Jacksonville veterans are learning that ancient trade. The Local Union, the contractors and the Jacksonville Vocational school are co-operating in this most effective program of training.

Numerous other crafts report similar programs, and the Veterans Advisory Committee appointed by the Central Labor Union will serve as co-ordinator with all of the local unions and veterans agencies.

LABOR-SCIENTIFIC GROUP ON ATOM POWER URGED
Chicago.—Proposal for a national labor-science committee on atomic energy was placed before a conference at the University of Chicago attended by 49 labor leaders and the Atomic Scientists of Chicago.

Durable Homes, Not Chicken Coops, Need Of Vets, Bates Insists

New York City.—American veterans want durable, safe and sanitary homes, not chicken coops, AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates told the National Public Housing Conference here.

Blasting the false assumption that the housing emergency is limited to the next two years and charging that veterans will be "grossly cheated" if they are forced to buy these jerry-built homes which become useless by the time they are paid for, Mr. Bates declared America cannot afford to "build now and plan later."

In a strong plea for support of the Wagner-Elender-Taft bill, which provides for a long-range, carefully integrated housing program, Mr. Bates said:

"We would not be fair to ourselves to assume that good homes for all Americans can be supplied through a brief, shortlived effort to provide two or three million homes regardless of their quality, regardless of their durability and safety and without a plan to fit these homes into soundly designed neighborhoods and healthy communities. If that is all we were planning to do, we would be fooling no one but ourselves and ignoring the most fundamental facts underlying our whole housing problem. The public should know the real facts. All elements of enterprise should take a realistic measure of America's long-term capacity to produce. Having taken such a measure we should plan accordingly.

"I cannot subscribe to the notion that we should build now and plan later. It seems plain common sense to me to recognize today—not tomorrow or two years from now—that the homes we could begin to provide at once must be regarded as a lasting investment in our country's future wealth and as a lasting contribution toward the welfare and happiness of the people served.

"We must endeavor to build as much housing as our present capacity, our facilities and our ingenuity permit. But what we build we must build well. What millions of returning veterans and civilian families, doubled up in crowded quarters, are asking is not for the roof alone. What they want is durable, safe and sanitary housing—not chicken coops. Every room, every kitchen, every window in the homes which they so desperately want will be paid for with the hard-won savings and the hard-earned wages of the great mass of Americans. They who in the end will pay every cent of the price of their new homes will be grossly cheated if they are forced to buy homes which become useless when they are paid for.

"Keenly aware of the record of the past, organized labor calls upon all Americans, veterans and

(Continued on Page 3)

EX-GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK NAMED HOPKINS SUCCESSOR

New York.—Charles Poletti, former governor of New York, was selected as impartial chairman of the \$500,000,000 New York coat and suit industry by union and employer representatives. He succeeds the late Harry L. Hopkins.

The selection was made by a committee representing four employer associations and the Cloak Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union (AFL).

Mr. Poletti has a distinguished record of public service. He resigned from the New York Supreme Court bench in 1938 to run for lieutenant governor and succeeded to the governorship at the end of 1942 when Governor Lehman resigned to become head of UNRRA.

Mr. Poletti served for a time as special assistant to Secretary of War Stimson and entered the Army in 1943. During part of his service he was AMG governor of Rome, Naples, Milan and Sicily. Mr. Poletti has been a member of the law firm of Poletti, Diamond, Rabin, Freidin and Mackay.

As the impartial chairman of the New York coat and suit industry, Mr. Poletti will preside over one of the oldest structures of collective management-labor relationship, established in 1910. At present, it embraces 40,000 factory workers, and 1,300 firms with an annual output of more than \$500,000,000 in value or approximately 80 per cent of the total coat and suit production of the nation.

The committee that acted in the naming of Mr. Poletti included Israel Feinberg, general manager of the New York Joint Board of Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions of the ILGWU; Charles Baker, executive director of the Infants' and Children's Coat association, Inc.; Joseph L. Dubow, executive director of the Merchants' Ladies' Garment association, Inc.; Samuel Klein, executive director of the Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, Inc., and Charles M. Sussman, executive director of the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, Inc.

In a joint statement, they declared they regarded Mr. Poletti as "certain to make a distinguished contribution to the industry's progress in enlightened labor-management relations."

"Governor Poletti's constructive abilities, so thoroughly demonstrated in the key posts he filled with such distinction, will be of surpassing value in furthering the progressive strides in worker-employer relationship achieved in the coat and suit industry in its long history of collective bargaining," the statement said.

Truman Lauds Green In Improving Health Bill

Washington, D. C.—President Truman publicly praised AFL President William Green for a constructive suggestion for improvement of the National Health bill.

Chairman James E. Murray, of the Senate Education and Labor committee, made public a letter from the President endorsing Mr. Green's proposal for a clarifying amendment to the bill. The President's letter was in response to inquiries made by Senators Murray and Wagner and Rep. Dingell regarding his views on Mr. Green's suggestion.

The President said he was "wholeheartedly in favor of Mr. Green's suggestions" and that "Mr. Green has rendered a distinctive service by making a constructive

suggestion for clarification and improvement" of the legislation.

In studying the bill, Mr. Green discovered that a section dealing with maternal and child health services would duplicate provisions of the health insurance system set up in another section. He urged that a clarifying amendment be drafted to indicate that the Children's Bureau program under Title 1 should be directed toward community services, special research and educational activities to assure high standards of maternal and child care. If the Children's Bureau also is to provide personal health services, Mr. Green said that this phase should be limited to those not eligible for insurance benefits under the terms of the bill.