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30-HOUR WEEK FORECAST BY AFL PRESIDENT

"Atomic Age" May Reform All Industry

New York City.—Foreseeing the swift realization of the 30-hour week as an economic necessity and the attainment of an even shorter work week in the "atomic age" to come, AFL President William Green called for the intensification of labor's educational activities so that the workers of tomorrow may be able to take full advantage of the cultural opportunities afforded them.

Speaking at the 25th anniversary dinner of the Workers Education Bureau of America at the Hotel Commodore, Mr. Green declared:

"To say that all is well in this, the best of all possible worlds, is a confession of ignorance to which the trade union movement never has subscribed and never will.

"We seek new frontiers, new standards, new goals for humanity and, in this constant search, education is our beacon.

"Today the civilized world stands on the threshold of a new age—the atomic age. Under pressure of a war for survival, our scientists succeeded in harnessing atomic energy in the form of a bomb whose destructive effects shocked the entire globe. Nations of good will are now hopeful and confident that the threat of such wholesale slaughter as these bombs can perpetrate will banish future wars and

usher in lasting peace under the guardianship of the United Nations Organization.

"Meanwhile, our scientists promise that within the next generation atomic energy can be applied to industrial pursuits so as to lighten the burdens of mankind. If their forecasts prove accurate, our whole way of life will be drastically changed for the better. The shorter work week which the American Federation of Labor espoused before the war and which we will now strive for with renewed determination is likely to become a swift reality. In fact, we may have to raise our sights, because in the atomic age even a 30-hour week may become outmoded.

Picture, if you will the vast opportunities for education and cultural development that such changes will offer the industrial workers of the future. It is incumbent upon the trade union movement to plan now for that day. We must see to it that the exploitation of atomic energy is directed into the proper channels and developed for the benefit of all the people, rather than for a favored few.

"Therefore, I strongly urge that the scope of labor's educational activities be intensified, its methods broadened and its objectives enlarged."

SENATE VOTES TO LIFT MINIMUM TO 65 CENTS PER HOUR

Washington, D. C.—The Senate adopted legislation increasing the national minimum wage from 40 to 65 cents an hour, but tacked on a farm rider which may cause President Truman to veto the bill if the House does not remove the offending section.

The rider would require that added farm labor costs be included in calculating parity prices. Since this would result in increased prices for food, it was denounced as inflationary by Administration spokesmen.

The Senate amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act fell far short of the recommendations of its Education and Labor Committee. The committee bill set an immediate 65-cent minimum wage but also provided for automatic increases up to 75 cents an hour in the next few years. This provision was killed in the final voting.

Since the National Wage Stabilization Board already has announced advance approval of increases in sub-standard wage rates up to 65 cents an hour, the Senate bill scarcely does more than give official legislative sanction to the status quo.

More than 20,000,000 workers were reported to be still in the substandard wage bracket, however, and passage of the legislation would give them additional economic protection.

AFRA NATIONAL BOARD GIVES HELLER HIGH POST

New York City.—George Heller was appointed National Executive Secretary of the American Federation of Radio Artists in a special meeting of the New York members of the AFRA National Board, held to name a successor to Emily Holt, who resigned as the organization's head. Mrs. Holt's resignation was accepted by the board "with profound regret and with deep gratitude for her years of service to AFRA."

BILL CREATING NEW OFFICES IN LABOR DEPT. APPROVED

Washington, D. C.—The House completed action and sent to the White House a bill creating the offices of Undersecretary of Labor and three assistant secretaries.

The measure would give Secretary Schwelienbach two more administrative assistants, abolish the present posts of assistant and second assistant secretary. The new officers would receive \$10,000 a year and their appointments would require Senate approval.

JOHN MURPHY IS LABOR AIDE TO GENERAL McARTHUR

Boston.—John J. Murphy, New England AFL representative, has been named labor adviser to Gen. Douglas MacArthur to inaugurate a democratic labor organization in Japan for the U. S. Army.

Mr. Murphy sailed first for Korea where his mission is to lay the foundations. Others will follow to carry through a 5-year program.

"We are trying to establish a democratic labor movement in Japan run and controlled by the workers themselves instead of by the government," Mr. Murphy said.

"The Japanese already have a labor organization but it comes under police control. Everything in it is under the police department, and police attend all the labor meetings.

"Also we hope to see the Japanese government pass laws such as we have in this country which enable labor organizations to function properly. Our National Labor Relations Act, for instance, has been of great benefit to employees. It gives them the right to select their own collective bargaining representatives and to bargain with their employers for wages and working conditions. It might be well patterned in Japan.

"Never has a law been passed in Japan whereby its government

GOING THE SAME WAY



Housing Bill Backed By AFL Approved By Senate Group

Washington, D. C.—Strongly supported by the American Federation of Labor, the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill providing for a long-range housing program at the rate of more than 1,000,000 homes a year for 10 years, was approved unanimously by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Introduced by Senators Wagner, Ellender and Taft, the measure represents the second successive attack on the housing problem by the committee, which voted previously approval of the veterans' emergency housing program to build 2,700,000 homes by the end of 1947.

The Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill picks up where the emergency step leaves off by aiming at a rounded program over a period of years instead of a quick increase in building materials and dwellings to meet immediate necessity.

Senator Wagner, chairman of the committee, declared that, since the measures dovetailed, he would attempt to bring them up consecutively before the Senate soon. He expressed confidence that both would be approved.

Entitled the General Housing Act of 1946, the bill concentrates on the encouragement of private enterprise and home ownership by provisions facilitating federal loans and credit and by investors in large-scale projects.

It covers all phases of the housing field by providing for slum clearance and urban redevelopment, federally-supported low-cost public housing, a substantial rural housing program and development of research and planning.

The bill calls for consolidation into a single government agency, under one policy-making head, of all housing functions, now spread through a multitudinous chain of agencies.

Under one of the committee's amendments of the subcommittee's draft a clause requiring that "the wages or fees prevailing in the locality" be applicable to government-aided building was made applicable to public and large projects.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.—(Christian.)

TRIBUTE TO SERVICE WOMEN



Signal Corps Photo. PARATROOPERS' MOTHER WINS BRONZE STAR. Sgt. Laura Loveland, Harrisonville, N. J., awarded medal by Gen. Eisenhower for action in personnel division of SHAEP, has sons in 82nd Airborne Division—Cpl. Leslie Loveland, 23 and Sgt. Freeman, 25, Legion of Merit winner, "Buy Victory Bonds and be partners with us in this great job for humanity," she says. U. S. Treasury Department

SOUND U. S. POLICY ON AIR TRANSPORT DEMANDED BY AFL

Washington, D. C.—Emphatic demand for a "sound policy" on domestic air service and America's place in international air transportation was made by Lewis J. Hines, national legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, before the Senate Commerce Subcommittee considering world aviation agreements.

"We are alarmed," Mr. Hines declared, "by the efforts of certain officials who bound their country in commitments to foreign nations on international air policy by way of executive agreements that we firmly believe to be in violation of the law. Moreover, we are particularly disturbed that such agreements were entered into in secret, and without giving the American public, the affected American industries, or organized labor and others, an opportunity to know what was going on before such agreements were signed.

"We believe that there is hardly any problem facing our country in international relationship that is of more importance to the future well-being and security of the United States than is a sound policy on air transportation.

"Conferences have already been held in Chicago and Bermuda by representatives of many foreign governments and our own country. In these conferences, valuable rights were extended to foreign airlines to operate into and across our country, which are exceedingly objectionable and injurious to our domestic airlines, buses and railroads.

"Our State Department has announced that the United States has accepted four aviation agreements as 'executive agreements.' "Agreements 1 and 2 provide machinery through which this and other countries may cooperate in development of international air transportation. The American Federation of Labor believes these documents are treaties and should be submitted to the Senate for approval, which we hope will be forthcoming.

"Agreement 3 extends the right to foreign flag aircraft of member nations to fly on regular schedules across the United States and to land for refueling and traffic purposes without securing a specific permit or franchise from the United States, as no w required by the Air Commerce Act.

"Agreement 4 extends the right to foreign flag aircraft to transport air traffic including passengers, freight and mails between the United States cities and foreign countries without securing a specific permit or franchise from the United States as now required by the Civil Aeronautics Act.

"We believe that adherence to these agreements by Executive Order is not only unconstitutional but most unwise economically."

GREEN WARNS SENATORS AGAINST EQUAL RIGHTS BILL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged all members of the U. S. Senate to oppose adoption of the so-called "Equal Rights Amendment" which has been favorably reported out by the Senate judiciary committee.

"We have consistently fought for state and federal legislation giving special protection to women, such as minimum wage laws, social and physical protective laws, special leave at maternity, etc.," Mr. Green wrote to the senators.

"We do not feel that such laws discriminate against women and realize that the Equal Rights amendment will wipe out all such protective laws. We therefore oppose it and solicit your support in opposition to it."

Truman Says Postwar Output Tops All Records

DRESS MAKERS WIN PAY INCREASES OF 13 MILLION DOLLARS

New York City.—Utilizing the impartial chairman system of arbitration that has kept the city's largest industry free from labor strife for many years, 75,000 dress-makers employed in 22,000 shops in the metropolitan area won wage increases totaling \$13,600,000 a year.

Spokesmen for the five employer associations and the Dress Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL, expressed gratification that their wage differences had again been settled without a strike or lockout, but the employers warned that they could not put the higher wages into effect without permission from the Office of Price Administration to include the increased costs in their present price ceilings.

The manufacturers made it clear that they did not plan to ask OPA to authorize higher wholesale or retail prices, but wanted authorization to take the wage rise into account as a cost factor that would permit modifications in trimmings or other elements in dressmaking.

The wage award, which will provide increases ranging from 7 to 8.6 per cent to the 75,000 workers, was handed down by Harry Uviller, impartial chairman of the dress industry, ending a dispute that began last November.

Mr. Uviller said the increase would average about \$4 a week for each worker, or slightly under 12 cents an hour for the basic 35-hour week. Before the increase, he reported, the average weekly wage was \$45.

Julius Hochman, manager of the Dress Joint Board, said the members of the union were "not satisfied" with the outcome of the arbitration, but they were proud that "a wage dispute of this magnitude has been disposed of through the orderly processes of collective bargaining." He praised the effort of the impartial chairman to take all factors into account in rendering his decision.

TOM CASHEN GETS TREASURY CITATION

Buffalo, N. Y.—Thomas C. Cashen, president of the Switchmen's Union of North America and chairman of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, was given the United States Treasury's highest award for distinguished service during the war.

The presentation was made at the executive offices of the union here in the presence of Mr. Cashen's family by Walter H. O'Brien, executive officer of the Railroad Unit of the United States Savings Bonds Division.

Treasury Secretary Fred M. Vinson, in a personal letter to Mr. Cashen, said in part:

"Throughout the entire duration of the war emergency the Treasury Department has received the finest type of cooperation from yourself and the Railway Labor Executives' Association, and as a result the workers in the railroad industry have made an impressive record of War Bond purchases. "As a recognition of your generous help in this matter I am sending you a Treasury citation for distinguished services and, with it, my personal thanks"

Washington, D. C.—All records for production of civilian goods are being broken. President Truman announced in declaring that American industry now is well "over the hump" in the transition from war to peace.

Reporting the nation is emerging from its war years "strong and healthy," the President told newsmen he looks forward to unparalleled good times.

"Production of goods and services for the civilian market," he told a press conference, "is higher today than ever before in the nation's history, and is still going up."

The President's bright outlook was based on a report of a survey by his foremost economic adviser, John W. Snyder, director of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Mr. Truman said in a prepared statement that the progress to date also would be nullified if Congress does not provide for an extension of price control and stabilization laws.

The Snyder report, which was released at the White House after Mr. Truman's news conference, listed these as "solid gains" made by the nation in the period of readjustment:

"1. Major issues of wage and price adjustment have been met in a way to stimulate production without losing vital ground to the force of inflation.

"2. Labor-management contracts established in many major industries under collective bargaining should assure uninterrupted production.

"3. Vigorous programs have been formulated to meet the most critical shortages, most notably in textiles and housing."

Director Snyder said that civilian production now stands at the unprecedented annual rate of 150 billion dollars, and he pointed out that employment (exclusive of employment on farms) was higher than it was on V-J Day.

Private wage and salary payments, which dropped to an annual rate of \$75,000,000,000 after V. J. Day, have now returned almost to the Pre-V-J Day level of \$82,000,000,000.

Mr. Snyder said that America's position, while good, "would have been even better if labor-management disputes had not put out the fires in steel furnaces, stopped automobile assembly lines, curtailed production of electric equipment and other vital components."

AFL SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO LIFT FOREIGN WAGES

New York City.—Robert J. Watt, AFL International Representative, has taken a strong stand against exploitation of workers in foreign nations which would permit unfair competition with American labor.

Addressing the Export Managers' Club here, Mr. Watt was emphatic in his declaration that American employers and unions should join in efforts of the International Labor Organization to raise wages and improve working conditions throughout the world.

"I call your attention to the ILO," Mr. Watt said, "because I believe it offers a safeguard against the kind of exploitation of labor in foreign lands which would permit unfair competition with American labor. Such safeguards will serve as an insurance for the continuance of foreign trade. I am sure that restrictive barriers will be demanded if and when American workers find themselves undercut by any of the products of foreign lands."

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