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AFL Rail Unions Dissatisfied With 16-cent Increase

Over One Million Affected Ask For More Equitable Pay

Chicago. — More than a million AFL railroad workers were awarded a wage increase of 16 cents an hour by a special arbitration board.

The award is final and binding but falls far short of union demands, and leaders of the AFL Railway Employees Department declared that moves would be initiated under the Railway Labor Act to start a new wage case.

Notice for the further increase "will be served promptly, and this movement will be pressed to an early conclusion," declared President Bert M. Jewell of the Railway Employees' Department.

"The award is wholly unsatisfactory," he said. "The organizations are determined to get a square deal. No one will be permitted to hide behind any so-called stabilization policy as an excuse to further mistreat these workers."

The three "operating" unions likewise are planning further steps. Representatives of the three organizations are to meet soon to decide their course.

Even to obtain a 16-cent award from the boards proved to be a tortuous and difficult task.

In the "nonoperating" case, the labor members had to join with the "neutral" members — two judges appointed by the National Mediation Board—in order to get a vote on the 16 cents. That was the highest figure the "neutrals" would approve. Carrier members held out for less.

"Neutrals" responsible for the low "nonoperating" award are Justice Ernest M. Tipton of the Missouri Supreme Court and Justice Herbert B. Rudolph, South Dakota Supreme Court.

Labor members of the "nonoperating" board—President Knight of the Carmen and President Milliman of the Waymen—explained in a vigorous accompanying statement of protest that this was the only course they could pursue which would "perpetrate the least injustice upon the employees."

Both Knight and Milliman were bitter in their condemnation of the "nonoperating" case award. Charging the "neutral" members with subversion of judicial process, they declared in part:

"What the board has done, in short, is baselessly to distort the stabilization policy of the government into a barrier against giving any consideration to the gross inequities between railroad wages and wages in other industries.

"The neutral arbitrators indicated, early in the board's deliberations, their disposition to accept the limitations asserted by the carriers and thus to exclude from consideration all evidence of inequities between railroad wage rates and wages in other industries.

"Obviously the establishment of currently equitable wage rates for the railroad employes requires not only the correction of inequities as of last September commensurate with postwar increases in other industries."

SAILMAKERS GET CHARTER

Philadelphia. — The Sailmakers and Canvas Local 1, with a history dating back 113 years, has been chartered by the Upholsterers' International Union (AFL). It was organized originally as the Society of Journeymen Sailmakers of the Port of New York in 1833 and has a long tradition of achievement.

When you have read The Journal pass it on to your neighbor.

COMPROMISE SOUGHT ON PAY INCREASES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Washington, D. C.—Conference committees representing the Senate and House are trying to work out an acceptable compromise of the conflicting provisions of the legislation adopted by both Houses providing pay increases for more than a million classified Federal employes.

The Senate bill provided for a graduated 15 per cent salary boost but contained several provisions considered objectionable by the AFL Council of Government Employees unions. Likewise the House bill, which calls for a flat \$400 annual pay hike, is objectionable because it requires the government to meet the added costs by firing large numbers of workers from its payroll.

Prospects of passage of better legislation in the House were ruined by CIO mass picketing of Congress. The demonstration angered many Representatives and caused them to change their votes and defeat the 18-1-2 per cent increase recommended by the House Civil Service committee.

Meanwhile, the House passed by a 380 to 1 vote the Burch bill providing a \$400 yearly increase to postal employes. This legislation was supported by the National Letter Carriers' association, the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and other AFL unions representing the overwhelming majority of postal employes. The Senate is due to act on this bill soon.

TRIBUTE TO SERVICE WOMEN



PURPLE HEART WINNER STICKS TO POST. WAC Sgt. Sophia Saisan, Boyertown, Pa., shrugged off painful wounds when a bus bomb showered broken glass on her and went back to her desk in an Army Quartermaster Depot in Southern England. Thousands of other WACS showed heroism under fire and Victory Bond buyers will show appreciation for their part in winning the war. U. S. Treasury Department

Common Labor Wage Rate Set At 75 Cents Minimum

Knoxville, Tenn. — Announcement has been made by the Wage Adjustment Board of the U. S. Department of Labor that the minimum wage rate of 75 cents an hour for common building labor in this area has been authorized, effective first pay day period after March 7. This rate applies to all non-Federal building. Mortar mixers minimum wage rate was set at 85 cents while the rate for plasterers tenders and bricklayers tenders is set at 80 cents an hour.

The same announcement stated that common labor rate in the Daytona Beach area, and the Jacksonville, Fla. — Announcement has been made by the Wage Adjustment Board of the U. S. Department of Labor that the minimum wage rate of 75 cents an hour—minimum. These authorizations are highly pleasing to the workers and to the officials of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers International Union, who have worked so diligently in the successful efforts to obtain these advancements for common labor.

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

U. S. SUPREME COURT SIDESTEPS DECISION ON FLORIDA LABOR LAW

Washington, D. C.—The United States Supreme Court dodged an immediate decision on the validity of the Florida State constitutional amendment banning the closed shop by remanding the case to the Federal district court.

The majority decision held that the district court should not have passed on the issue until it was first tried in the state courts. The District court had upheld the amendment.

Dissenting from the majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Murphy argued that the highest court should consider the validity of the amendment immediately because of the urgent need of a decision which would clarify future labor-management relations in the state.

In another case, the Supreme Court held that the Federal Anti-Kickback Law does not apply to fees collected by unions from workers who later let their membership lapse.

An attempt to prosecute officers of Local 39 of the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union and the Eastern Massachusetts Laborers District Council under the kickback law was therefore stymied.

The Supreme Court held there was no intent by Congress to apply the provisions of the law to labor unions. The law was passed to prohibit the practice by chiseling employers of forcing workers to kick back part of their pay.

In a third labor case, the court refused to give a definition of what would be sufficient evidence of a union's authority to represent a member in grievance cases before the Railroad Adjustment Board. No all-inclusive rule can be formulated for all such situations, the court held.

AFL Urges Congress To Finish Military Forces Draft May 15

OKAY OF BRITISH LOAN AS STEP TO PEACE CALLED FOR

Washington, D. C. — Prompt approval of legislation authorizing the loan to Great Britain was strongly urged by AFL President William Green in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, acting chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency committee.

American labor, Mr. Green declared, favors the loan "because it believes that America should not fail to perform this plain duty and discharge a clear responsibility to insure the maintenance of world peace."

Mr. Green said in part: "The true significance of the British Loan agreement to the American worker, American businessman and the American farmer is not in the direct effect of the American dollars provided to an allied nation in time of the most critical need. To meet that need is important. But the real significance we must realistically face. If we choose not to aid Britain now, the whole structure, monetary, economic and political, of healthy international co-operation will inevitably begin to crumble."

"This other road is a road to another war. The choice is between international co-operation and international conflict. It is the choice between the unity in reconstruction and the disunity in the fight of individual nations for economic self-preservation. It is the choice between a long-term balance in international trade and precipitous

Washington, D. C.—Strong opposition to legislative proposals for extension of the Draft act beyond May 15 was voiced before the Senate Military Affairs committee by the American Federation of Labor.

AFL National Legislative Representative Lewis G. Hines called on the committee for a plan to provide "a proper, well-balanced, scientific army" trained in the most modern system of warfare.

"To continue the draft," he told the committee, "is to continue the obsolete methods that have prevailed heretofore, and for that reason the American Federation of Labor believes that the draft should end May 15 and under no conditions should it be extended more than three months beyond that date."

Mr. Hines demanded that future armies be organized on a "qualitative rather than quantitative basis" and registered strong protest against drafting hundreds of thousands of young men "who cannot conceivably fit into the picture" of scientific warfare under present training standards.

"I cannot stress too strongly the need for a general overhauling of the obsolete methods now in use by the military," he said. "The caste system, always obnoxious, which has grown tremendously more so during the past several years, must go and the need must be developed for creating a desire on the part of the average young American to join the army because it will offer many opportunities in education and other advantages.

"We believe that if we are to have war we should fight such a war efficiently and scientifically rather than through the wasteful methods that have accompanied our efforts in the past. This nation can and should prepare for any eventuality but it should be done only with the full accord of all those who have to pay the price—not at the dictates of one particular group. We believe that if you discontinue the draft on May 15 that it will spur the efforts of the military to arrange a program that will attract more people to the service."

FLORIDA UNIONS OPPOSE BAN ON CLOSED SHOPS

Miami—A resolution setting up a 5-man committee to campaign against a proposed state amendment forbidding closed shop agreements was adopted by the Florida Federation of Labor convention here.

Plans also were mapped at the convention to protect unions from a ruling by State Attorney General Watson to county tax assessors that union-owned property is subject to taxation. Legal steps, including applications for injunctions to prevent taxation of the property, also are expected.

The convention also called on the legislature to increase unemployment benefits to a maximum of \$25 a week and to extend the time for 20 weeks. The session endorsed an increase in the state teachers' salary appropriation.

BRITISH ANTI-STRIKE ACT REPEALED BY BIG MAJORITY

London, England.—The House of Commons repealed the Trade Union Disputes Act of 1927, which banned strikes and direct union participation in politics. Cheers rang through the chamber when the vote, 349 to 182, was announced.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ORGANIZATION CHART

