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AFL SOUTHERN LABOR MEETING OPENS IN ASHEVILLE TO MAP SOUTH-WIDE CAMPAIGN

Outstanding leaders of the American Federation of Labor, including most of the Executive Council and International Presidents, will be on hand at Asheville, North Carolina, Saturday and Sunday (May 11 and 12) for the Third Biennial Southern Labor Conference.

The conference will be by far the most important ever held in the South on behalf of labor. Its purposes and achievements will not only affect every member of the American Federation of Labor but it will be equally important to every wage earner in the South.

The program, as announced by George Gooze, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor, although subject to change, would indicate that every phase involving the future of Southern Labor will be thoroughly discussed and a formal plan of procedure adopted.

Keynote speeches will be given by President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Director of Organization Frank P. Fenton, and Executive Council Vice Presidents William Hutcheson and John L. Lewis.

Others listed as speakers are Honorable Wayne Morse, United States Senator from Oregon, former Vice Chairman of the National War Labor Board; Honorable Wilson Wyatt, former Mayor of Louisville, chairman of the National Housing Commission; Honorable Ralph McGill, editor in chief of the Atlanta Constitution; and Gerald D. Kelly, senior member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Prominent leaders from the National offices of the American Federation of Labor listed are John Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department; L. N. Orsburn, secretary of the Union Label Department; Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of Social Insurance Activities; and John Connors, executive secretary of Workers Educational Bureau.

Michael Widman, director of Organization for District 50, United Mine Workers of America will be a principal speaker on Saturday afternoon's program.

The conference will be well advertised throughout the nation. Twice on Saturday proceedings will be broadcast to the entire country. The Columbia chain will broadcast on Saturday afternoon from 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the United America program. Speakers on a round table discussion will be Moderator Phillip Pearl, President Green, Mr. Gooze and two delegates to be chosen at the conference. President Green's principal address will be given on Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. over the nation-wide National Broadcasting System.

The Conference will open Saturday morning at 8 o'clock with the registering of delegates and the issuance of badges. It will convene promptly at 10 o'clock with the opening address by James F. Barrett of the Asheville Central Labor Union. There will be addresses of welcome by Major L. Lyons Lee, Mayor of Asheville; R. R. Williams, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; and C. A. Fink, president of North Carolina State Federation of Labor. The opening invocation will be by the Rev. Arthur W. Farnum, Rector of St. Mary's church and chaplain of the Central Labor Union for the last 15 years.

Dr. Ellis Fuller, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, will deliver the devotional sermon at the opening of the Sunday morning session. In addition there will be Gospel singing by the Gospel Singers from the Birmingham Laundry Workers Local Union.

In a final message to all State Federations, Central Labor Unions and all local unions, Mr. Gooze stresses the importance of each group bringing as many delegates as possible to Asheville.

"Our members in the South cannot afford to miss a single session," Mr. Gooze emphasized. "The growth of the American Federation of Labor from a few hundred thousand to nearly two million

within the past ten years is the best indication that we cannot relax our efforts at this time. I think there are about 1,000,000 additional workers in the South who are potential members of the American Federation of Labor if we properly present the benefits of strong, militant trade unionism.

"Within the past several weeks the CIO, in order to further its political program, has decided to go after the scalps of the representatives we have elected to represent us in Washington. I think the fate of our representatives should be left in the hands of the workers of the South, not in the hands of Sidney Hillman and the Communist party.

"These political manipulators, who wish to undermine our present American form of government as well as life, are calling their invasion of the Southland a 'Holy Crusade.' The last time the Communist party entered upon a 'Holy Crusade' was when Russia entered the side of the Allies during World War Two. Previous to that the Communist leaders of the CIO did all they could to hamper our United States of America's participation in the war which they termed a 'Capitalistic War.' They hindered production, they picketed the White House and they refused to enter our armed forces. Then overnight they embarked on the 'Holy Crusade' with Russia's advent into the hostilities. Today they are on another, this time to wreck the labor movement, to wipe away Southern industry, to regimentize the entire country, to place political control of the Nation in the hands of a few ambitious men whose first loyalties are to a foreign government.

"The Labor movement, which is the American Federation of Labor in the South cannot stand idly by while they attempt his. To date they have been unable to make appreciable gains and they won't in the future if we all unite to do our share. Let labor organizations represent workers in the field of wages, hours and working conditions, and keep collective bargaining and freedom of enterprise upon their present levels. Permit our members to vote as their consciences dictate, create no class warfare, and hasten industrial activities in this time of reconversion in order that Union and Management co-operate for our mutual welfare."

ILGWU PLEDGES \$100,000 FOR SCHOOL IN PALESTINE

New York City—A pledge of \$100,000 to the Federation of Labor Unions in Palestine for construction of a vocational school in Haifa, Palestine, has been made by the International Ladies' Garment Workers (AFL), David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, announced.

Unions in Palestine have agreed to raise an additional \$140,000 to meet the total cost of the project. The Haifa vocational school is the fourth overseas enterprise of this kind undertaken by the ILGWU.

A.F.L. Officials Pledge Co-operation

President Green

Secretary Meany



American Federation of Labor officials have left no stones unturned toward making the Southern Labor conference meeting in Asheville Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, a huge success. At this meeting plans will be laid for organizing the unorganized workers in every city, village and hamlet in Dixie and advance information indicates that Asheville will be deluged for hotel reservations for the gathering. Reading from left to right: William Green, president of the American Federation; George L. Gooze, southern director who will be the directing head of the southern director, who will be the directing head of the southern director of the American Federation of Labor.

SAY, LISTEN!

Furthering radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 3:45 p.m., Eastern Time, over the nation-wide Columbia Broadcasting System, are listed below for the information of trade unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans to tune in:

May 11—Printing Trades. John B. Haggerty, president of the International Allied Printing Trades Association; and Oscar Whitehouse, secretary of the union employers of the Printing Industry of America, will talk from a printing plant in Washington, D. C.

May 15—Garment Workers. Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union will tell a graphic story of how union organization has benefited workers in the industry.

May 25—Report from the South. George Gooze, AFL Regional Director, and David Lilienthal, TVA chairman, will describe the advances won by AFL organization of Southern workers.

CONCILIATOR'S BOX SCORE

Washington, D. C. — A "box score" presented by Edgar L. Warren, chief of the U. S. Conciliation Service, shows that nearly 90 per cent of the nation's labor disputes submitted to conciliators wind up in settlements.

In 448 of the 524 cases where strike votes had been taken in March, the report declared.



JOHN L. LEWIS

President of the United Mine Workers of America, and an AFL vice president. Mr. Lewis will attend the Southern Labor Conference meeting in Asheville May 11-12 and address the gathering.

The AFL Presents...

(Featuring Lee George, president of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks; Mrs. Bernice Heffner, secretary of the American Federation of Government Employees, and Jerome Keating, assistant secretary of the National Letter Carriers' Association, AFL leaders representing a quarter of a million AFL members, interviewed at Washington, D. C., by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.)

Problems of Federal government employees, their struggle through the war period and uncertainties in meeting postwar conditions were placed before the country in the third of a series of radio programs entitled "Cross Section—AFL" over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

First to be interviewed by Cooke in the round-table discussion, Mrs. Heffner emphasized that the three unions represented before the microphone are made up solely of men and women whose employer is the people of the United States.

"Uncle Sam should be the model employer," she added. "He should set the pace for wages in industry. We can't say that he is the model employer he should be."

Mrs. Heffner pointed out that, though her union has 42,000 members scattered over the United States and its possessions, of whom 60 per cent are women, the average wage for the typical American girl is \$33 a week.

"Taking out fixed charges, including taxes," she said, "she is left with about \$25, and out of this she must pay her board and room, transportation, church donations, amusements and also her noon lunches."

Mrs. Heffner urged strong support for pending legislation which would increase the wages of her group and the postal workers.

George, discussing problems of postal workers, expressed hope that Congress will approve pending legislation to aid this group in its fight for a wage increase.

"Our bill, as passed by the House," he said, "provides an increase of \$400 a year for our postal workers. That's to meet the increased cost of living and to make up for the loss in take-home pay caused by the elimination of overtime. The average pay now is around \$2,400 a year."

George told Cooke the Senate

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Council plans to mobilize the full strength of the American Federation of Labor in support of the southern organizing drive at its Spring meeting here beginning May 15.

Pushing toward a goal of a million new members within the coming year, the Executive Council is expected to call upon all affiliated unions to assign additional organizers to southern cities and have them work as a team with the AFL's own increased staff in that field.

Many members of the Executive Council will attend the Southern Labor Conference in Asheville, N. C., May 11 and 12, when they will have an opportunity to study all phases of the program to be adopted there by delegates representing 1,800,000 AFL workers in 12 southern states.

On their return to Washington from Asheville, the Executive Council is scheduled to get down to work immediately on implementing the southern drive.

Many other important matters are due to come up for consideration at the council meeting.

The political policy to be followed by the AFL in the 1946 congressional elections will be drafted by the Executive Council with the objective of electing members of Congress favorable to labor's legislative aims.

Decisions will be made by the council on outstanding legislation now pending in Congress and also on government policies affecting labor.

It is expected that the Executive Council will seek to rally nationwide support for the adoption by the House of the long-range Wagner-Blender-Taft Housing bill as passed by the Senate. Particularly, a fight will have to be made to save the AFL-sponsored prevailing wage amendment, which requires the payment of prevailing wages on FHA-financed construction.

The council also will be asked by President William Green to act for the continuation of price controls, without the crippling amendments adopted by the House.

If the OPA is not continued, the cost of living may shoot up as much as 50 per cent within a few months, thus wiping out the purchasing power of the wage-earners' dollar and nullifying the pay gains won by labor since the war ended.

Failure of Congress to act promptly for the lifting of minimum wage levels will probably draw a stiff rebuke from the Executive Council, which has consistently advocated such legislation in order to lift the nation's standards.

Another vigorous denunciation of anti-labor legislation such as the Case bill, passed by the House, will be voiced by the Executive Council which considers such moves hostile to the best interests of American democracy.

Besides legislative matters, the Executive Council will consider the trend of court decisions affecting labor and draft programs for extended labor aid to returning veterans.

ture, this upward movement would be widespread and the cost of living would swiftly rise. That rise America cannot afford and Congress must not permit."

Mr. Green emphasized that the AFL does not favor permanent price controls. But the termination of controls must be an "orderly demobilization, not a haphazard stampede," he insisted. He warned that OPA has been moving too fast in relaxing controls, citing the fact that it has granted 200 industry-wide increases since V-E Day in order to spur production and has allowed price adjustments to 20,000 business firms.

The "most dangerous" amendment passed by the House, Mr. Green declared, was the Gossett de-control amendment which would compel lifting of price controls on the basis of a production formula which would automatically kill ceilings on half the entire list of consumer items.

A second, "cost-plus-profit" amendment, Mr. Green said, would wreck price control and guarantee high profits to manufacturers on every article they produced. The red tape involved in trying to determine what would constitute a "reasonable profit," he warned, would completely paralyze OPA.

Mr. Green launched a vigorous attack on still another amendment designed to liquidate subsidies on meats, dairy products, flour and certain canned vegetables. This is a deliberate attempt to force a sharp boost in the cost of living, he charged. Subsidies should be terminated as soon as conditions per-

"If the lid is taken off pre-

(Please Turn to Page 4)

Green Asks Senate to Restore OPA Control

Washington, D. C. — AFL President William Green forcefully appealed to the U. S. Senate to protect the earnings of the nation's workers from conscienceless profiteering by extending OPA for another year without crippling amendments.

Denouncing the action of the House in approving amendments sponsored by the "price control death-lobby," Mr. Green told the Senate Banking and Currency committee:

"I plead with the Senate to reject these amendments promptly and unhesitatingly. Hesitation will only breed chaos. Delay will only multiply confusion."

"Every day of postponement of the decision will help the profiteer and hearten the speculator. If the Senate defers its final decision until the last minute, it may be too late—Congress will already have embarked the nation upon a journey into economic chaos."

Declaring he spoke for 25,000,000 Americans—the 7,000,000 members of the AFL and their families — Mr. Green painted a frightening picture of what may happen to wage earners if price control is suddenly tossed out the window.

"Experience with the removal of price controls to date is replete with examples of what would happen if the Congress legislated OPA out of existence now," he said. "There are dozens of items already decontrolled on which prices have jumped as much as 100 per cent in a matter of days."