

SENATE PASSES LABOR MEASURE

CHARLOTTE AFL REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Washington, June 1.—After a week of bitter debate the Senate today passed a modified version of the President Truman's emergency labor program, by a vote of 61 to 20, minus the draft-labor provision, which administration leaders have called the big club of the program.

Much-Changed
The Senate then sent the legislation back to the House but in quite different form than the other chamber whipped through by a 306 to 13 vote just a week ago after listening to Mr. Truman's personal plea for authority to draft those who strike when the Government seizes an industry.

Besides this draft clause, the Senate also stripped from the measure a provision which would have denied seniority rights to strikers in seized industries and "just compensation" to plant owners whose property was taken over.

This left in the measure a provision arming the President with seizure authority similar to that he now has under the wartime Smith-Connally Act. After seizure he could adjust wages and working conditions, an authority the Senate upheld by a 54 to 28 vote.

Union leaders also would be required to take "affirmative action" to call off a strike, with penalties of \$5,000 fine or a year's imprisonment for violation of this section.

No-Strike Ban
As approved by the Senate, the bill likewise would permit the Attorney General to seek injunctions to enforce the no-strike ban, a provision some Senators said would authorize imprisonment of those who violate court orders. The Senate beat off, 61 to 19, an attempt to strip this power from the bill.

Employees who refused to attempt to strip this power from turn to work after the Government took over would lose their bargaining rights under the Wagner Act and the Railway Labor Act. Profits of Government operation would be turned to the Treasury, with owners being assured of fair compensation under constitution provisions.

The Senate voted to make the bill effective until June 30, 1947, with Congress or the President terminating it sooner if either desires.

While Administration lieutenants said they thought the measure would be at least acceptable, if not satisfactory, to President Truman in this form, the House contemplated no move on it until next Thursday at the earliest. Consideration of all controversial legislation is off in the House until then. The Senate asked that the bill go to a Senate-House committee for settlement of differences.

The general feeling among House members was that the Senate had left them out on a limb by slashing off the strike-draft section they had approved so overwhelmingly.

Mixed with this was a desire among many House members to have Mr. Truman act on the Case Bill, which officially went to him yesterday, before they decided what to do finally about the emergency legislation. By unofficial count the President has till midnight June 12 to veto or approve the latter bill or let it become law without his signature.

Case Bill Doomed
Best guess among Administration leaders was that Mr. Truman will veto the Case Bill, which provides mediation machinery, makes unions subject to contract violations suit, bans secondary boycotts and outlaws racketeers violence.

Senators who have called on him recently to urge that he sign it said they came away without any promises of this nature.

A Presidential veto almost certainly would kill the Case Bill, since its supporters apparently lack the two-thirds in the Senate to override and have only a bare chance of rallying that many backers in the House.

The only labor legislation then left would be the President's emergency bill, which a Senate-House conference committee could be expected to patch up and resubmit to the two bodies for their final approval.

In this process, there appeared little likelihood that the Senate would reverse the 70 to 13 vote by which it killed the strike-draft provision last Wednesday.

When all the battling was over, there was a round of exchanges over just what was the effect of the bill the Senate had brought to passage.

Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, declared that "for the first time the Congress has chosen to make it unlawful for one individual to quit work if the Government is operating a plant where he is employed."

Senator George, Democrat, Georgia, and O'Mahoney, Democrat, Wyoming, violently disagreed.

"The declaration by the Florida Senator is completely and utterly without foundation," O'Mahoney asserted. George called it "grossly unfair."

But Pepper stuck to that interpretation. He contended an injunction could be insured against one man for not returning to work after a strike. George and O'Mahoney argued the stoppage must be the result of "concerted action" with other workers.

Senator Morse, Republican, Oregon, closed the early morning debate by shouting:
"Thank God for the Supreme Court. I think this act is clearly unconstitutional."

COMPANIES, FOUND CHISELING ON WAGES, ARE FINED

Washington, D. C.—Chiseling on wages is still widespread despite vigorous efforts by the government to discourage the practice, L. Metcalfe Walling, administrator of the Wage-Hour and Walsh-Healey Acts, revealed in a report.

In the nine-months period ending April 1, Mr. Walling announced, more than 15,000 firms were required to repay 212,000 employees more than \$15,000,000 in wages which had been withheld illegally.

In all, 30,000 concerns were inspected during that period. Some were selected for a checkup because of complaints lodged against them, while others were picked because conditions are bad in the industries of which they are a part.

One of every two inspected establishments was found to be a law violator, Walling pointed out. Some chiseling on the Wage-Hour Act, which calls for a 40-cent minimum wage and time and a half pay for overtime after 40 hours in industries engaged in interstate commerce, and which prohibits use of child labor.

Others "cheated" on the Walsh-Healey Act, which requires payment of prevailing local wages in plants producing materials under contract for the government. Still others violated both laws. Many fleeced their employees out of even the 40-cent minimum.

Also, 121 firms, Walling said, were found to have falsified their records to cover up their crookedness.

ARCHITECTS, DRAFTSMEN TRANSFER TO NEW OFFICES

Washington, D. C.—The International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions (AFL) has moved from the AFL building here to its new headquarters, Room 726, at 900 F street N. W., Washington 4, D. C. Foster J. Pratt is international president.

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Charlotte Unions Condemn Case Bill; Truman Labor Proposal Also Scored

AFL Policy Board Set Up; Googe Is Chairman

Atlanta, Ga., May 30.—(Special)—George L. Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, and a group of 40 representative leaders, all of whom are native Southerners, have been appointed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the Southern Campaign Policy Board, according to an announcement by President William Green. Mr. Googe was named chairman.

The new policy board will meet in Atlanta on June 3, 4 and 5 for the first time. Details of policy as adopted by the Southern Labor Conference at Asheville and since approved in entirety by the Executive Council will be discussed and augmented while actual plans for the welcoming of an additional 1,000,000 new members into the American Federation of Labor within the next year are worked out.

This statement was released by the Executive Council following its recent meeting in Washington.

"The Executive Council gives its unanimous approval to the plans now underway for an extensive organizing campaign by the American Federation of Labor in the South.

"Our mission as a labor organization is to organize the unorganized workers of the nation and to raise their working and living standards. There is no section of the nation which needs organization more acutely than the South. We believe that the success of our organizing efforts will prove beneficial not only to Southern workers, but also to Southern industry and agriculture.

"The projected Southern organizing drive will be guided by these basic principles:

1. Its primary objectives will be economic, rather than political.
2. It will offer the benefits of unionism to all workers, regardless of race, creed or color.
3. It will be carried on by an organization with an undeviating loyalty to the United States of America.

"The Executive Council directs that a Co-ordinator be appointed to direct all organizational efforts in the South.

"We further direct that a policy committee, composed of outstanding American Federation of Labor leaders in the South, be appointed to work with and advise the Co-ordinator.

"We authorize the extension of full assistance to the Organization drive by the American Federation of Labor.

"We urge all affiliated national and international unions to co-operate by assigning organizers to supplement and support the American Federation of Labor's campaign.

"We call upon all local unions in the South to join with city central bodies and State Federations of Labor in making this a united and successful effort."

"Our program is to greatly accelerate the one on which we have been embarked during the last 16 years when our membership rose from 383,000 to 1,800,000," Mr. Googe stated in releasing the policy board names. "With the war over and transportation difficulties somewhat lessened we can reach every worker in the Southland and offer membership in a free trade



GEORGE L. GOOGE

WYATT GRATEFUL TO AFL LEADERS

Asheville, N. C.—Deep appreciation for the vigorous co-operation demonstrated by the AFL in the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program was expressed by Emergency Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt in an address before the AFL Southern Conference here.

Decrying efforts in some quarters to label the Veterans' Housing Program "some sort of nonsense cooked up in Washington," Mr. Wyatt cited a letter addressed to President Truman by AFL President William Green and Harry Bates, chairman of the AFL Housing committee, which said in part:

"Mr. Wyatt's program requests that we do what seems to be impossible. The records show that we did what seemed to be impossible when we were fighting to win the war. Organized labor shared unflinchingly with others in the all-out effort to reach and surpass what Please be assured that we will do what seems to be impossible again to meet the gravest emergency of peace."

Expressing confidence that the goal of starting construction on 2,700,000 houses and apartments can be begun within the next two years with the co-operation of the AFL, Mr. Wyatt told the meeting of AFL southern leaders:

"We are counting on business to lick the building materials shortage, aided by intelligent help by labor. We are counting on you in organized labor to see to it that enough workers are trained or recruited and ready to build the houses as the material becomes available.

"There are now about 650,000 workers employed both in off-site activity in materials production and distribution and on-site in actual construction of homes. To meet our goal a peak of 2,500,000 workers will have to be on the job."

PHARMACISTS WIN RAISE

San Francisco — The Pharmacists Union (AFL) has signed a new contract with all major San Francisco drugstores giving licensed pharmacists a raise from \$275 to \$325 a month and clerks from \$185 to \$185, all raises retroactive to November 1.

President Truman's "Slave Labor" proposal was bitterly taken to task Thursday night at the regular weekly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union when the delegates representing A. F. of L. Unions in this city vicinity called upon Charlotte Central Labor Union officials to send a telegram to President Truman urging that he veto the Case bill which has been passed by Congress and sent to the White House for the President's acceptance or rejection.

The delegates vigorously scored the Congressmen and Senators from North Carolina who voted for the Case measure, saying that the action of Congress was made while the country was in a state of hysteria.

L. P. Williams, representative of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, in addressing the session, touched briefly on the Case bill and said, in part:

"It is a shame and a disgrace that labor has been betrayed by our Congressmen and Senators from North Carolina. Their actions should awaken us to our duties and responsibilities and I know from the amount of interest manifested here tonight that you are going to educate, agitate and organize to such an extent that your economic strength will be felt in Charlotte, Raleigh and Washington."

Mr. Williams told a Labor Journal representative that he is greatly impressed with Charlotte and vicinity and that he is making a survey here preliminary to setting up organization plans in co-operation with the South organization campaign soon to get underway by the American Federation of Labor. "I am highly pleased with the interest shown by Charlotte Labor people in the Southern campaign and I know that if this prevails throughout the State that North Carolina will be well organized in every industry by the time the AFL drive closes.

Charlotte Central Labor Union appointed a Public Relations committee and this committee will work with the press and civic groups in an endeavor to enlighten the public as to the principles and policies of the American Federation of Labor and the constructive work that the Council is now doing in the reconversion period.

It was also reported that the American Federation of Labor will soon open a regional office in Charlotte and that President Earl Britton of the South Carolina Federation of Labor will be in charge.

Many international representatives are already in Charlotte and AFL leaders in Charlotte predict that Charlotte will soon be the strongest Labor center in the South.

The telegram ordered sent to President Truman reads as follows:
Hon. Harry S. Truman, President United States of America, White House, Washington, D. C.

"The Charlotte Central Labor Union, representing 12,000 members, who are patriotic Americans, vigorously protest the passage of the Case Bill by Congress and Senators during the heat of excitement. The provisions of this Bill if signed into law will penalize the rank and file members of organized labor who contributed their all to the war effort and who have worked long and hard to advance the standards of living in the community of which they reside. We do not feel that you will support the opponents of labor by signing this

CONGRESS SENDS PRESIDENT \$400 P.O. PAY RAISE BILL

Washington, D. C.—Unanimous passage by the Senate of the House approved bill giving some 400,000 postal workers a \$400 salary increase sent the measure to the White House for President Truman's signature.

In addition to the annual raise, the legislation provides 20 cents per hour boost for daily or hourly workers and a 20 per cent jump in pay for fourth-class postmasters. It will be retroactive to January 1, will add an estimated \$162,000,000 to the basic \$712,000,000 pay roll of the Post Office and amount to an average of 17.6 per cent increase for the service as a whole. The salary increase was designed to meet the increased cost of living and to make up for the loss of take-home pay caused by the elimination of overtime. Average pay of postal workers before passage of the bill was estimated at \$2,400 a year.

Unanimous Senate approval of the salary increase came as no surprise, as it encountered no opposition in committee. Earlier it had been approved by the House overwhelmingly, with only a handful of "noes."

Commenting on the action of Congress approving the legislation, President Leo E. George of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks (AFL), said:

"Enactment of the Burch-Mead bill to provide a horizontal increase of \$400 per year to all postal employees, is an act of retarded justice to employees of the United States Government whose service is universally recognized as efficient and dependable under any and all adverse conditions.

"The regard in which their service is held is best illustrated by the fact that in the entire Senate and House of Representatives only one vote was registered in opposition to the measure.

"The result could not have been attained, however, without the fine support given by such men as Representative Burch and Senator Mead who sponsored the legislation in the two Houses of Congress and Representative O'Brien of Michigan whose bill was eventually incorporated into the final draft and the public support aroused through the co-operation of the seven million members of the American Federation of Labor."