

# PRESIDENT TRUMAN VEToes CASE BILL

## Chief Executive Again Urges An Exhaustive Inquiry Into The Cause of Labor-Management Nation-Wide Disputes.

Washington, D. C. — President Truman vetoed the obnoxious Case bill, telling Congress bluntly that it would not stop strikes, but promote increased industrial strife.

Instead, the President urged that Congress should authorize a joint Senate-House investigation into the causes of labor disputes and to formulate remedial legislation after an exhaustive six-months study.

AFL President William Green immediately hailed the President's message as bearing out the contentions made by organized labor against the bill.

Congress promptly sustained the veto. The vote in the House was 135 to uphold and 255 to override, less than the two-thirds required to enact a law over the President's veto.

Thus the Case Bill is a dead duck for the time being at least. It was not expected that Congress again would attempt to pass anti-labor legislation without first conducting the inquiry urged by the President.

Although his language was polite and temperate, the President made it clear in his veto message that he considered the Case Bill a hodge-podge of ill-considered and unrelated provisions hurriedly wrapped together into an unwieldy and unworkable legislative package.

His main argument was summed up as follows:

"In the determination of the question of whether or not the great majority of our citizens will be benefited by this bill, the question presented is whether it will help to stop strikes and work stoppages and prevent other practices which adversely affect our economy.

"I have reached the conclusion that it will not."

In another telling attack against the Case Bill, the President said:

"One of the factors to be considered in judging this bill is whether or not it would have prevented or shortened the strikes which have so seriously damaged our economy these last few months. Judged solely from this standpoint, I am sure a fairminded man would have to admit it would have failed completely."

The President reminded Congress of his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in vetoing the

Smith-Connally Act (which was re-enacted over the Presidential veto), warned Congress that its cooling-off and strike vote provisions would not lessen, but promote, industrial strife.

"That prediction was fully borne out by subsequent events," Mr. Truman said. "It is my belief that a similar result would follow approval of this bill."

In a detailed, section-by-section analysis of the bill, the President said that the compulsory cooling-off period of 60 to 65 days might encourage "quickie" strikes. He also charged the penalties against labor were far more severe than against management. He insisted that the first three sections of the bill "fail to provide a satisfactory method of coping with labor-management disputes which confront the nation."

The President also assailed Section 4, which sets up an independent Federal Mediation Board, as creating a separate Department of Labor with no responsible head. This he termed a "backward step." His same objections covered the following two sections.

Going on to Section 7, the President said that Congress in making labor unions subject to prosecution under the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act, had eliminated the provision that the law should not be construed as impairing or diminishing the legal right of labor to strike and picket peacefully. He said this safeguard should be restored.

The President then challenged Section 8, which would make it a crime for an employer to contribute to health and welfare funds solely administered by the union. He said he deemed it "inadvisable" to remove such a question "from the scope of collective bargaining."

He also questioned the advisability of Section 9, which denied to foremen the right to join unions of their own choice.

He assailed Section 10, making unions liable for damages in court suits, because it largely repeals the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

The President questioned the justice of Section 11, which attempts to ban secondary boycotts and jurisdictional disputes by making unions subject to prosecution and injunctions under the anti-trust laws. He concluded by saying Sections 12 to 14 were unobjectionable.

### Text of Veto Message

Washington, D. C.—The text of President Truman's message to Congress explaining why he vetoed the Case Bill follows:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, H. R. 4908, entitled "An Act to Provide Additional Facilities for the Mediation of Labor Disputes, and for Other Purposes."

The outstanding domestic problem confronting this country today is the maintenance and increase of production. We must have production, or the effects of ruinous inflation will be felt by every one of our citizens. Strikes and lockouts are the greatest handicaps to attaining vital production.

Inasmuch as the solution of our present-day labor problems constitutes the key to production, this present bill must be judged in the light of whether it will assist in reducing labor strife in the nation.

I have given careful study to the bill. I have not considered it from the standpoint of whether it favors or harms labor, or whether it favors or harms management. I have considered it from the standpoint of whether or not it benefits the public, which includes both management and labor.

In the determination of the question of whether or not the great majority of our citizens will be benefited by this bill, the question presented is whether it will help to stop strikes and work stoppages and prevent other practices which adversely affect our economy.

I have reached the conclusion that it will not.

I have tried, as the representative of all the people of our nation, to approach this problem objectively, free from the emotional strains of the times, and free from every consideration except the welfare of the nation and of the world which is so dependent upon

our recovery to a full peacetime economy.

This bill was undoubtedly passed by the members of the Congress in the sincere belief that it would remedy certain existing conditions which cause labor strife and produce domestic turmoil. I cannot agree with the Congress with reference to the results that would be achieved by it.

I trust that there will be no confusion in the minds of the members of the Congress or in the minds of the public between this bill and my request on May 25 for emergency legislation.

At that time I requested temporary legislation to be effective only for a period of six months after the termination of hostilities, and applicable only to those few industries which had been taken over by the Government and in which the President by proclamation declared that an emergency had arisen which affected the entire economy of the country.

It was limited to strikes against the Government. It did not apply to strikes against private employers.

Such emergency legislation is before the Congress, and I again make the request that it be passed.

H. R. 4908 is utterly different from my proposal of May 25, in kind and in degree. Its range is broad, dealing with a wide variety of subjects, some of which are wholly unrelated to the subject of settling or preventing strikes. It covers strikes against private employers. It is permanent legislation, operative even after the reconversion period is entirely over. And it applies not to a few selected and vital industries, but to every dispute, no matter how insignificant, if the dispute affects interstate commerce.

At the same time, May 25, I also requested permanent legislation (Please Turn to Page 2)

## The Charlotte Labor Journal

(AND DIXIE FARM NEWS)

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# Earle R. Britton Arrives In Charlotte To Open AFL Membership Campaign

## Nineteen New Members Are Taken Into AFGE

The meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees, held at the Chamber of Commerce assembly hall Wednesday night was largely attended, despite inclement weather, and President E. M. Betch reports that 19 new members were initiated into the lodge.

Representative A. E. Brown of the State Federation of Labor was present to assist in the ceremonies and delivered a talk, inviting the Charlotte AFGE locals to affiliate with the State body. The union voted to affiliate and will send its quota of delegates to the meeting to be held in High Point in August.

Other talks were made by visiting labor representatives and the regular business of the lodge

was disposed of in orderly fashion.

The new officers of the AFGE are:

President, E. M. Belch; Vice President, J. Wylie Poole; Vice President, Mrs. Margaret Elrod; Vice President, Manning J. Deuyer; Secretary-Treasurer, C. E. Knight; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edna Knight; Sergeant-At-Arms, Hubert C. Linker.

Recently a branch of this local was set up for Negro government workers, who will have their own officers and meeting dates. The new Negro lodge is known as Lodge 195-A and a meeting will be held next Tuesday night in Bethlehem Community Center. Many members are already enrolled. It is expected that 300 will have joined before long.

## Central Labor Union Notes

The Charlotte AFL Labor Temple is buzzing with activity these days and the meeting of the Central body was largely attended Thursday night and the oratory during debates over various matters was excellent. Many were in talkative moods and many constructive matters were disposed of in quick order.

President Thomas was up on the laws governing parliamentary procedure and asked the delegates to adhere strictly to the rules in order that business matters would not get tangled up in too much debate.

Delegates reports were heard at

the proper time and a resolution was passed asking President C. A. Fink of the North Carolina Federation of Labor to name a delegate to sit on a new governmental board here which has to do with "rationing" out building supplies, materials, etc., in new construction work.

Gayle Barker, president of the Raleigh Central Labor Union, was present and talked about the Welfare of Human Rights program.

Thursday night, June 20, new officers for the coming year will be nominated and the election will be held on the following Thursday night, June 27.



## SWEEPING THIS WAY

By J. J. THOMAS, President Charlotte Central Labor Union

May I come in and have a short visit with you and talk to you about a very important matter which we are facing today? This is my first visit and I hope this visit will be of some benefit to you.

Friends, I am thinking today that a revival spirit for the AFL has come to us down through the South and that the time is at hand for the AFL to gather in the harvest. The fields are ready to harvest, but in years gone by the laborers have been few, comparatively speaking. Why? We have just a large per centage of card carriers who have come into the fold to receive some special benefit for a while, and many of these drifters have never really become unionized. We are partly to blame for them not getting established in our various organizations. To have a real labor revival we must have something more than cardholders. What do you think?

Think this over and remember your obligation. I am sure you will get under the burden and help to do your part in this great task of organizing the unorganized

workers in our midst. We must organize the entire South into the AFL. It can be done—and it will be done if you do your part in this great task. Don't let the AFL down. If you do you will suffer down the road soon.

You may say, "How can I help?" The answer is start a new membership program in your local union. Talk unionism to everybody you come in contact with. Attend every labor meeting you hear about and help every organizer who comes into this field to make contacts with people whom we desire to interest in the AFL movement.

I had the privilege to attend one of the greatest gatherings of the AFL delegates from at least 12 Southern States recently. They represented practically every craft in the catalog. The reason for this huge meeting was to lay plans to bring into the AFL fold every laboring person throughout the South. I feel quite sure we will do our part.

This 1946 will make history in the records for the AFL. If I have struck one note today to cause you to take advantage of this wonderful task, I am thankful.

## CARPENTERS ARE WINNERS JOBLESS PAY-SUIT BATTLE

Philadelphia.—The AFL United Carpenters and Joiners won a two-year battle when the State Superior court ruled that an unemployed union man does not forfeit his right to unemployment compensation if he refuses to take a nonunion job that would cause his expulsion from his union.

This decision was considered a major victory for the principles of organized labor.

John Seifing, member of the union for 34 years, was offered a job at the Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Chester, Feb. 21, 1944. He declined on grounds that it was not a union shop and that the job paid only \$1.01 1-2 to \$1.20 an hour as against the union minimum scale of \$1.58 an hour. Furthermore, he said he was informed by the union that if he accepted the work he would be suspended or expelled.

When the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation cut him off the unemployment compensation rolls, he appealed to the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review, which reversed the decision. This opinion was upheld by the Superior court, which ruled that a union's by-laws "must be more than written threats—that without the right to enforce its by-laws, a union would be a pallid, impotent entity, its by-laws fustian and its objectives unrealizable."

## THREE AFL LOCALS GIVEN RAISE BY METALS FIRM

Philadelphia, Pa.—An announcement has been made of a general 15-cents-an-hour increase for 1,200 production and maintenance employees which became effective on June 3, by the United States gauge division of American Machine and Metals, Inc., Sellersville.

The agreement was favored by three American Federation of Labor locals which have union contracts with the company. On account of changing economic conditions and due to the fact that the existing agreement runs to September 21, "the principals have mutually agreed that the upward adjustment of wages should be made at this time in order to correct inequities" caused by present economic changes, the announcement said.

## TRUMAN NAMES VINSON CHIEF JUSTICE OF U. S.

Washington, D. C.—Fred M. Vinson, 56-year-old Treasury Secretary, was appointed Chief Justice of the United States by President Truman. The nomination was a surprise to members of the Senate, but was received with favorable comment.

At the same time the President announced appointment of John W. Snyder of Missouri, 49-year-old reconversion director and a close friend of Mr. Truman for many years, as Treasury Secretary and John L. Sullivan, 46, of New Hampshire, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air, to be Undersecretary of the Navy.

It was generally conceded the Senate would confirm the nomination of Mr. Vinson quickly.

Make an all-out effort to assist Director Earle R. Britton to organize the unorganized in the Carolinas. He needs your support.

## AFL DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA



EARLE R. BRITTON

## F. J. PRATT EMPHASIZES THE VALUE OF UNION LABELS AND ALSO CARDS

Washington, D. C.—Importance of the union label was emphasized in a statement by Foster J. Pratt, president of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions (AFL). He said:

"In order to continuously improve American labor standards, members of each union should reciprocate with members of other unions that have adopted union labels, shop cards or service buttons. Our union label is displayed on drawings produced under union conditions and is used on contracts with engineering, architectural, manufacturing, shipbuilding, contracting and all other firms which employ technical men.

"We are proud to be affiliated with Union Label Trades Department of the AFL because, through co-operative action, we shall be able to maintain the high standards which we obtain through collective bargaining."

## LABOR UNIONS HELPING VETERANS TO FIND JOBS

Washington, D. C.—The United States Employment Service announced that labor unions are doing a great job in helping to find employment for war veterans. The Service stated that in hundreds of communities the unions have either launched campaigns on their own to locate jobs for "vets" or have joined with other employer organizations or civic groups to find available employment.

At Salinas, Calif., the Central Labor Union ran newspaper "ads" soliciting jobs for demobilized servicemen.

## CAPITAL GAS LIGHT CO. TO GRANT AFL UNIONS RAISE

Washington, N. C.—The Washington Gas Light Co., and employees of two unions have signed a new wage agreement which provides an 18-cent hourly increase in wages. Also provided is a 10-cent-an-hour premium for employees working on regular Sunday schedules.

Representative unions in the contract negotiations, concluded by a three-man arbitration panel, were Local 63, International Chemical Workers, and Local 2, Office Employees Union, both AFL.

Plans are about complete at the new offices of the American Federation of Labor Charlotte headquarters for the planned Federation Carolinas membership drive which was authorized at the recent Third Biennial Conference meeting in Asheville. The new offices are located in the Labor Temple at 317 1-2 North Tryon street and will serve the two Carolinas in the organizational activities of all affiliated AFL unions.

Many of the organizers on the staff of the A. F. of L. will work out of the Charlotte office. Several have reported the past week. Miss Josephine Gillis and Brother Alva Kemp are now assisting Representative A. E. Brown of the North Carolina Federation of Labor in this area. Both of these organizers are on the A. F. of L. staff.

Earle R. Britton of Columbia, S. C., has been placed in charge of the Charlotte office. Brother Britton is president of the South Carolina Federation of Labor and for many years he has been a leading figure in organized labor in that State. For thirteen years he was president of the City Federation of Trades in Columbia, S. C. In June, 1944, he was elected president of the South Carolina Federation of Labor. For many years prior to this he was chairman of the Legislative committee of the S. C. State Federation. In this capacity he appeared before many committees of the South Carolina General Assembly, supporting legislation in the interest of the workers or opposing proposals that were detrimental to labor.

President Britton has served on many State-wide committees, designated either by the General Assembly or by the Governors at one time or another. These State-wide committees included the "Committee of Nine" in 1939, headed by Mr. Angus E. Bird, which conducted an exhaustive study of the State governmental structure and State natural resources, with a view of attracting new industries to South Carolina. Another committee on which he served was that which in 1941 conducted the study of the State's unemployment compensation law. He was one of the original advocates of the establishment of workmen's compensation in South Carolina and served on the labor-management committee that drew up the present Workmen's Compensation Law now on the law books of the state.

Earle Britton is a veteran of World War I, a member of Richmond Post No. 6 of the American Legion, a past vice-commander of that post. He is a member of the Forty and Eight, Voiture Locale No. 1025, and is a Grand Chef de Train Passe of the State body.

Brother Britton was for twenty-six years mechanical superintendent of The Columbia Record. Recently he was with the United States Employment Service in South Carolina, serving out of the administrative office as a field supervisor. He is an active member of the International Typographical Union, with continuous membership for thirty-eight years. Also he is a member of the International Machinists association and the American Federation of Government Employees.

Claude L. Albea was installed as president of Charlotte Typographical Union at the regular June meeting. O. H. Burgess was seated as secretary, with H. L. Beatty recording secretary and H. B. Alexander, sergeant-at-arms.