

# Senate Curbs OPA And Living Costs Increasing

## PRESIDENT TRUMAN MAY VETO BILL WHICH IGNORES THE PLEA FOR STRICT CONTROL

Washington, D. C.—The Senate gave the OPA a new lease on life—in an oxygen tent. By a vote of 53 to 11, the OPA was extended for another year but its powers were so curtailed that the agency would be impotent to enforce price controls and hold the line against inflation.

Since the House had previously adopted an equally severe, although different, OPA extension bill, Congress has virtually repudiated President Truman's demands for authority to keep the cost of living within bounds.

Therefore, it was freely predicted that after the differences in the House and Senate bills are ironed out by a joint conference committee, the President is likely to veto the resulting legislation.

Since the OPA would expire at the end of this month unless Congress extends it, a veto might mean the death knell for OPA, either by the direct method of overriding the veto or by not passing any legislation and allowing the agency's authority to lapse.

Meanwhile, an AFL survey revealed that despite the OPA it now costs the average family living in an American city almost twice as much to eat as it did before the war.

At the same time, clothing bills have gone up more than 75 per cent for city dwellers.

The only important item in the cost of living which has remained relatively stable is rent.

The figures are considerably higher than those of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, but that official bureau does not take into account in its index of consumer prices many of the unofficial holdups which are being perpetrated against the American people today.

For instance, the BLS makes no allowances for black markets and does not give sufficient weight to the fact that low-price articles have practically disappeared from city store shelves.

When there is no bread to be bought for love or money, people have to buy more expensive substitutes, such as cake and crackers—all of which results in boosting the family food bill.

When \$1 and \$2 white shirts are unobtainable, people have to buy the \$6 and \$10 variety—and this sort of thing eats up income rapidly.

Added to these factors is the new and ominous trend of OPA policy in granting price increases with a lavish hand. Fearful of being wiped out altogether by Congress, OPA is relaxing price controls more rapidly at this time than ever before in its history.

Such price increases within one week, beginning June 1, boosted the cost of living 1-2 per cent, the Office of Economic Stabilization officially admitted.

Entering into this sudden jump were price increases of one-cent-a-quart for milk, six-cents-a-pound for cheese, 11-cents-a-pound for butter and one-cent-a-pound for bread.

If prices continue to go up at (Please Turn to Page 4)

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

(AND DIXIE FARM NEWS)

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## Labor Advisory Committee Of OPA Recommends State-wide Policy Board

### CLU Asks Cherry For Accredited School Here

#### FAVORS SCHOOLS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER STATE AUSPICES SO THAT THEY WILL BE ACCREDITED

The meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union Thursday night endorsed a committee report in which letters are to be sent to Governor Gregg Cherry and to Russell Gruman of the extension division of the University of North Carolina, asking that every consideration be given to establishing Junior College training in the high schools here for students who are unable to enter college next year due to the inability of the colleges to provide the necessary dormitory facilities, etc. It was the sense of the labor union committee that the training program be set up under auspices of the State, in order that the students participating in the training program may receive their credits for such training in colleges of this and other States when they do have the opportunity to complete the higher academic courses through college later on when accommodations become available.

The State Educational board met recently and is endeavoring to explore the available facilities in the cities of the State in order that a final decision may be made relative to establishing Junior College training in the high schools of North Carolina. The board reported that it had information in hand which pointed to the fact that 12,000 high school students will not be able to enter colleges this Fall due to lack of facilities to care for them, which makes it imperative that some means be devised to provide for them a training program, which should be accredited.

### Central Labor Union Notes

Charlotte Central Labor Union had one of its busiest meetings of the year at the Labor Temple Thursday night, with a large delegation present, representative of local affiliated unions. The meeting was called to order by President J. J. Thomas, who asked H. A. Stalls to serve in the capacity of acting secretary in the absence of Secretary R. R. Harris.

Minutes of the June 13 meeting were read and approved and credentials were received from duly elected delegates from the following unions:

Pete Toffoli, Tile Layers; C. M. Presby, Stencil Rowland, L. U. B. 379, I. B. E. W.; V. J. Funderburke, H. P. Moore, N. L. Johnson, F. G. Hahn and W. C. Nolen, Carpenters and Joiners; J. J. Thomas and J. D. Green, Firefighters; M. A. Van Dyke, H. R. Eford, Frank G. Ellis and Y. W. Edwards, Plumbers.

Reports of special committees were heard and Brother Nolan reported on the status of a recent increase by a local real estate concern of the Temple's monthly rent. It was thought that the increase was exorbitant and the central body voted to conduct further negotiations in an effort to get the sum reduced somewhat.

Reports from local unions were then heard, after which the chair announced that nominations of officers and delegates was in order. However, it was the sense of the meeting that this be deferred until all other business had been disposed of, which was done.

A communication was read from Secretary Meany of the American Federation of Labor and due to the absence of Secretary Harris, action on same was deferred until the next meeting.

The special committee, headed by Mrs. Knight of the AFGE local, to draft letters to Governor Cherry and Secretary Gruman of the University of North Carolina extension division was then heard and its report adopted.

Under new business Brother Nolan reported that a meeting of the Charlotte members of the OPA Labor Advisory committee was held Thursday afternoon with Assistant Regional Labor Advisor Archie W. Graham of Atlanta, which resulted in the local committee recommending that a state-wide organization be formed in case Congress does not curtail the activities of OPA to the extent of giving it the "kiss of death." Un-

der present law it has only about 10 days to live.

Nominations of officers and delegates was then taken into and resulted as follows:

For President, Sterling Hicks.  
For Vice President, J. A. Scoggins.

For Secretary-Treasurer, R. R. Harris.

For Sergeant-at-Arms, C. M. Presby.

For Trustees, C. E. Knight, C. L. Albea, Brothers Draddy, Presby, Snipes, Nolan and Howards.

Delegates to State Federation of Labor (two to be elected with two alternates), Sterling W. Hicks, C. M. Presby, Mrs. W. C. Nolan and Brother Snipes.

The election will be held Thursday night, June 27 but further nominations may be made again before the election is held, according to C. L. U. law.

Delegate Nolan then asked all delegates to co-operate 100 per cent with Director Earle Britton who has arrived and opened AFL offices in the Labor Temple preparatory to activities of organizing the two Carolinas in the South-wide membership campaign.

The meeting adjourned.

### MINIMUM WAGE LAWS NEEDED, MANY STATES

Washington, D. C.—State minimum wage action is imperative for thousands of women workers who will find their postwar employment in laundries, hotels and other service industries not covered by minimum rates established under the Federal Wage and Hour Law, the U. S. Labor Department has warned.

Minimum wage amendments as adopted in Nevada, South Dakota, New York and Rhode Island were praised by the department. Efforts to improve minimum wage standards were taken in orders in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the survey showed.

### AFL TUGMEN GET RAISE

Washington, D. C.—A wage increase has been ordered by the Wage Stabilization Board for tugboat workers of the Federally-seized facilities of the Great Lakes Towing Co. The increase amounted to \$1.53 a day, retroactive to November 29, 1945, and will increase the tugmen's wages from \$10 to \$11.53 a day. The union in question was the Firemen's, Linemen's, Oilers' and Watchmen's Protective Association of the Longshoremen's Association (AFL).

### ANTHRACITE MINERS BACK AT WORK WITH WELFARE FUND, 18 1-2 CENT RAISE

New York City — Hard coal miners returned to work on substantially the same terms granted miners in the soft coal field.

The new anthracite agreement, negotiated by a committee headed by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), granted the miners a welfare fund based upon a 5-cent royalty on each ton mined, and an 18 1-2 cent hourly increase.

A major feature of the hard coal contract, which is expected to grant the 75,000 members of the union a welfare fund of some \$2,500,000 annually, was the agreement of the operators to permit Mr. Lewis to select two of the three members of the board which will administer the fund. The new agreement, culminating more than a full month of negotiations, was announced at a press conference here, attended by spokesmen for both the union and the operators. It confirmed earlier reports that such an agreement had been reached and was being put into formal terms.

Ralph E. Taggart, president of the Philadelphia-Reading Coal and Iron Co., and spokesman for the operators, disclosed the mine owners had been in touch with Federal stabilization officials and had "reasonable assurance" that a price increase would be approved.

Taggart declined to estimate the amount of the increase which would be asked, but on the basis of the figures he cited it was estimated at more than \$1 a ton on the wholesale level.

Terms of the agreement were read by Thomas J. Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the UMW.

"I think the agreement is wholesome and constructive and I will warmly recommend its approval to the mine workers," Mr. Lewis declared as Mr. Kennedy concluded.

Based on a seven-hour day, all categories of workers in the anthracite mine fields will receive a basic increase of \$1.29 1-2 a day. A sixth working day of seven hours, which would be paid at the rate of time and a half, was made optional to both the miners and the operators.

Travel time was increased for inside miners from \$1.132 daily to \$1.339 for a 45-minute period. Outside workers, numbering 26,000, who also receive the travel time payment of \$1.132 although, strictly speaking, it does not apply to them, do not receive this same increase but instead will have the present rate consolidated into their basic hourly pay.

Shift differentials were increased from 4 cents to 4.2 for workers on the swing shift and from 6 to 6.3 cents for men on the overnight. These differentials will be included in the basic hourly rates for computation of overtime.

An increase of 32.2 cents won in 1943 by the miners under the Little Steel formula was increased to 48.3 for contract workers, while a provision giving them 37.8 cents for reducing lunch time from 30 to 15 minutes that was granted in 1944 was continued without change.

As in bituminous, the anthracite miners will receive an increase in their annual vacation allowance from \$75 to \$100. This will be prorated for miners who work less than a year.

The agreement provided further that the industry would comply with Federal mine safety standards and the compensation and occupational disease laws of the State of Pennsylvania, which are elective. A union statement said that heretofore "only a few companies" had subscribed to the State laws.

On the question of the unionization of foremen, supervisor personnel and clerical help, the par-

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### ASSISTANT REGIONAL LABOR ADVISOR GRAHAM ADDRESSES GROUP, POINTING OUT NEW STEPS FOR ORGANIZED LABOR TO TAKE

At a meeting of the Labor Advisory Committee of the OPA held in Charlotte, on Thursday, June 20, representatives of organized labor discussed future activities to make the program of OPA more effective.

A recommendation from the committee was passed that a top policy committee to represent labor in OPA be formed in the State of North Carolina composed of 12 members representing the CIO, A. F. of L., and the Railroad Brotherhoods.

Representatives of the Building Trades, A. F. of L. stated that they were anxious to participate in a community wide housing committee that would expedite the building of homes for veterans and to relieve housing shortages.

Assistant Regional Labor Advisor, Archie W. Graham, in addressing the group stated that plans are being set for greater activity of organized labor in each State of this region on the continuation of an effective OPA program that would include greater participation by labor in channeling information to their membership and the general public and to insure representation on Price Control Panels.

J. A. Scoggins, Chairman of the Area Price Control Board, presided at this meeting as the representative of the district director; T. S. Johnson of Raleigh, N. C., who was unable to attend this gathering.

At the same time each of the spokesmen interviewed explained in detail the benefits offered by his union, the pleasant relationship they enjoyed with management, and proudly cited the absence of any jurisdictional disputes; despite the fact that all have overlapping tasks.

Harry Mastick, member of the International Typographical Union for 22 years, a union 85,000 strong, explained that his group provides sick benefits and maintains a Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs, one of the finest of such institutions in the country.

Timothy McMahon, for 30 years a member of the Stereotypers' Union, founded 83 years ago, described the Costello Home in Denver, established for convalescents. He explained, also, some of the intricacies of getting a metropolitan paper to press.

John E. Smith, member of the Pressmen's Union for 26 years, described the functions of steering the news pages through the giant

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### Labor Foes Confused Over Case Bill Veto

Washington, D. C.—Stunned by President Truman's veto and the sweeping denunciation of the Case Bill, the Congressional anti-labor bloc appeared demoralized and unable to agree on new strategy to enact curbs against the trade union movement by some other methods.

A meeting called by Senator Byrd and attended by the dispirited leaders of the anti-labor group in both Senate and House broke up without any formal accord on what to do next.

One faction, it was reported, urged that the House Rules Committee attach the provisions of the Case bill to the President's strike-control bill. However, since the latter measure is temporary in scope, this suggestion did not satisfy the die-hard labor haters.

It was pointed out, moreover, that the President might feel called upon, for the sake of consistency, to veto his own bill if Congress attempts such a legislative trick.

Significantly enough, the anti-labor bloc remained cool and aloof to President Truman's repeated suggestion for a joint Congressional Committee to study the cause

of labor disputes during the next six months before recommendations for new legislation dealing with labor-management relations are formulated.

Apparently, the foes of labor feared that such an investigation might reveal that management and Governmental policies have been largely to blame for the tide of unrest and disputes which have swept the Nation since V-J Day.

Meanwhile, the House Rules Committee is sitting tight on the President's Emergency Bill, which provides for injunctions against labor unions which strike after the Government has seized an industry and taken over its operation.

The House passed this bill in its original and more drastic form, including a provision for the drafting of workers into the armed forces when they strike under such circumstances. However, the Senate struck out this provision and made several other major amendments, notably the deletion of a provision for the retention by the Government of profits derived from the operation of private industries seized because of strikes.

Within the next week or 10 days, (Please Turn to Page 4)

### Congress' Actions Wilts Price Lines

Washington, D. C.—Here are the major provisions of the OPA extension measure as passed by the Senate. It would:

1. Extend the price agency one year, until June 30, 1947.
2. Wipe out ceilings on all meat, poultry and dairy products by June 30 of this year.
3. Direct the OPA Administrator to remove controls on all non-agricultural products not important in relation to business or living costs by the end of the year. This, presumably, would include luxury items and non-essential goods.
4. Order removal of controls over nonagricultural commodities of which the supply exceeds the demand.
5. Establish a three-member price-decontrol board with power to order removal of specific price ceilings if it finds appeals justified.
6. Give the Secretary of Agriculture the responsibility for designating agricultural products in short supply which should be kept under price control, and the authority to issue orders to OPA for lifting ceilings to stimulate production.
7. Instruct OPA, upon recom-

mendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, to remove ceilings on nonessential agricultural products by the end of the year.

8. Cut Government subsidies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, from approximately \$2,000,000,000 to \$1,100,000,000, with the stipulation that prices must be allowed to increase on commodities from which subsidy support is withdrawn or reduced. Food subsidies would be forbidden after May 1, 1947.

9. Abolish "MAP"—OPA's maximum average price order—which was designed to keep the production of low priced clothing going at prewar rates.

10. Grant a five percent increase in maximum prices for cotton textiles to manufacturers who have met specified production goals.

11. Prevent OPA from ordering reduction of normal peacetime trade discounts and mark-ups of wholesalers and retailers of "re-conversion items," such as automobiles, radios and refrigerators which were in short supply on the civilian market during the war.

12. Force OPA to add increased costs to prewar prices in fixing manufacturers' price ceilings.