

Bill To Increase Minimum Wage Is Blocked In House

Washington, D. C.—The Minimum Wage Increase Bill, to lift minimum wages from 40 to 65 cents an hour, was sidetracked and apparently blocked by the House Rules Committee as Congress raced toward adjournment.

This measure is a top issue on President Truman's legislative list and has been vigorously urged by the American Federation of Labor, which had pressed consistently for action before Congress would wind up its affairs.

To expedite House action on the wage measure the Committee on Labor had brushed aside the bill approved by the Senate in April after a three-week fight and reported out its own version, stripped down to a simple raising of the legal pay minimum to 65 cents, the figure adopted by the Senate. No attempt was made, as with the Senate bill, to broaden the coverage of the wage-hour law or to raise other controversial issues.

Through the acting chairman, Representative Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, a majority of the Labor Committee urged the Rules Committee to release this bill for floor action and to ban the offering of unrelated amendments.

This brought into the picture the fact that the Senate, twice defying a veto threat by President Truman, wrote into its minimum wage bill the Pace parity price-raising amendment which Government economists declared would add some \$4,500,000,000 to the annual food budget of the country.

Representative George E. Out-

land of California, speaking as the head of the informal steering committee on proposed labor legislation, informed the committee that the President had told him he would veto a House bill if it contained the Pace amendment.

Representative Stephen Pace of Georgia, author of the proposal to include farm labor cost increases in the computation of parity prices, asked for a rule which would admit his amendment for consideration. He recalled that the House had once adopted it, as a separate bill, by a unanimous vote and a second time with only one vote against it. He said he would offer it again.

A majority of the Rules Committee indicated a willingness to open the way for the Pace amendment. After the executive session, during which the committee promptly adopted rules to release four other measures for floor action, it was announced that the Wage bill was laid over "pending further consideration."

Representative Adolph J. Sabath, chairman, said this action was taken because Representative Eugene E. Cox of Georgia, wanted to be present and he had left Washington for the Georgia primary campaign and election to be held July 17. The date for the adjournment of the 79th Congress sine die has been set tentatively between July 17 and July 21.

Asked whether he thought there was any chance for the Rules Committee action on the Wage bill before the Congress went home to stay, Mr. Sabath said: "I'm afraid not."

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A Greater Buying Power Will Help Economy of South—President Green

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 1946



GREEN HURLS CHALLENGE AT KKK IN THE AFL SOUTHERN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

Charleston, S. C.—A blunt challenge to the Ku Klux Klan on the issue of freedom for all workers, without regard to race, color or creed, was hurled by AFL President William Green in an address before the annual convention of the South Carolina State Federation of Labor.

Spurring the drive throughout the South to add 1,000,000 members to the rolls of the AFL within the next year, Mr. Green declared:

"The final principle upon which our organization drive here is based is that it will offer the benefits of unionism to all workers."

"Let us make ourselves entirely clear on this point. The decent people of the South do not hate the Negro, nor do they wish to deny him opportunity for economic advancement. Race hatred has no place in America, nor in the trade union movement. The secret forces which seek to foment race hatred and prejudice are the very same as those which stir up antagonism against the unions."

"The pioneers in our labor movement fought and overcame enemies who stalked behind masks and white sheets and who sought to terrorize union organizers by fiery crosses and threats of lynching. Such Fascist forces are hostile to the high traditions of American freedom. The American Federation of Labor is going to continue fighting them and their hateful philosophies until they are eradicated. During the past few years, organized labor has been forced to defend itself against a vicious hate campaign which culminated in a widespread series of attempts to impair the freedom of American workers and American trade unions by enactments of Congress and a number of State Legislatures."

"This campaign has been cleverly directed by a sinister combination of reactionary interests, including wealthy employers, corrupt politicians and racketeering promoters. The American Federation of Labor has succeeded in the last few weeks in halting these anti-labor forces in their tracks in Washington. The President vetoed the Case Bill. Congress, in turn, has decided to let the President's strike-control bill die."

"This drive in the South will revive industrial and agricultural activity in this area by creating a greater purchasing power and wider markets. It will help to promote the economic and social welfare of the entire nation."

"Trying to maintain a prosperous industry and agriculture without high purchasing power is just as futile as attempting to run an engine without fuel. It cannot be done."

"But where labor is well-organized and union wages are paid, a different picture presents itself. With greater purchasing power come higher standards of living, thriving business and more prosperous farming. The benefits accrue not only to labor but to the entire community."

Lashing out at the Communist influence within the CIO, "which dared even to picket the White House and condemn America for imperialism," Mr. Green said:

"It is not surprising that the policies of the CIO are affected by the policies of Stalin. A number of their key organizations are controlled lock, stock and barrel by Communist leaders. These Communist leaders hold places on the CIO's National Executive Board. Instead of repudiating them, the CIO placates them and bows to their will."

"I predict that the workers of the South will overwhelmingly reject affiliation with such an organization. The Southern workers are patriotic Americans. They can never feel at home in an organization which traffics with a foreign nation bitterly opposed to the American way of life."

The federation re-elected Earl R. Britton of Columbia as president. He defeated Clyde R. Roland, also of Columbia. Fred E. Hatchell was re-elected secretary-treasurer for his 21st year.

Other officers named were Paul T. Ross of Spartanburg, first vice president; C. O. Gamble of Columbia, second vice president; John J. Minehan of Charleston, third vice president; J. Belton Warren of Laurens, fourth vice president; Walter E. Jenkins of Beaufort, fifth vice president; James Darnell of Orangeburg, sixth vice president; Charles R. Norris, seventh vice president; and Joseph M. Hunt of Greenville, eighth vice president.

John J. Irwin of Charleston was named chairman of the legislative committee, with J. W. Harrison of Spartanburg as vice chairman, and the following members: W. M. Hall of Winnsboro; John Nates of Columbia, and James Coles of Charleston. Roy McKinney was named as the delegate to the coming convention of the A.F.L.

Greenville was chosen as the 1947 convention city.

MANBECK HEADS DIVISION

Washington, D. C.—Jesse B. Manbeck, president of Columbia Typographical Union 101 here, has been made chairman of the labor division of the American Public Relations Association. President William Green of the AFL also is an advisory member of the APRA labor division.

Security Act Revised To Raise Aid To Needy

Washington, D. C.—Extensive revision of the Social Security Act, including a 50 per cent increase in Federal contributions for needy aged and the blind, were approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

By a vote of 17 to 8 the committee backed an increase in the public assistance program, which, through the State-Federal matching system, would enable the needy to obtain \$60 monthly relief. This compares with a present top of \$40.

With this new provision inserted, the committee ordered introduction of a bill embracing these other stipulations it already had agreed upon:

1. A 50 per cent increase in the old age and survivors' insurance tax January 1, from 1 per cent to

1.5 per cent against employes' pay and employers' pay rolls. This tax on that date will jump automatically to 2.5 against each if Congress does not act.

2. Blanketing over 200,000 maritime workers under the unemployment compensation program of social security.

3. Inclusion of all veterans' families under the survivor insurance provision for three years, without cost.

4. Repeal of a provision of the 1943 revenue act whereby the federal treasury guarantees the solvency of the old age and survivors insurance fund. This guarantee was written when Congress refused to let the security tax increase in war time.

Chairman Doughton (D., N. C.)
(Continued on Page 3)

Central Labor Union Notes

This week's meeting of Charlotte Central Labor union has been postponed until next week due to the Fourth of July holiday falling on the regularly scheduled meeting night. The new officers and delegates who were elected at last week's meeting will be installed next Thursday night.

President J. J. Thomas, the retiring president, reports that representatives from several of the international unions have been assigned to the Charlotte office of the American Federation of Labor

to participate in the current South-wide membership drive of the A. F. of L.

Director Earl R. Britton's office is buzzing with activity since he came here some time ago to open North and South Carolina offices for the A. F. of L. membership campaign. He has returned from the South Carolina Federation of Labor convention in Charleston, where he was re-elected as president at the close of the session last week.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF S. C. FEDERATION TO MEET ON JULY 14TH

Columbia, S. C., July 3—Secretary-Treasurer Fred C. Hatchell of the South Carolina Federation of Labor announces that a meeting of the executive board will be held at 10 A. M., Sunday, July 14, at Wade Hampton Hotel in Columbia.

Matters pertaining to the Southern organization drive will be discussed. Also other matters that are to be put into effect following the recent meeting of the S. C. Federation convention will be disposed of.

CHARLOTTE TYPOS TO MEET SUNDAY P. M.

The regular monthly meeting of Charlotte Typographical Union will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Red Men's Hall on South Tryon street. Routine matters will be disposed of together with several other topics of importance on the calendar to be discussed.

The annual convention of the International Typographical Union, originally scheduled for Charlotte, but transferred to Miami due to lack of hotel facilities in Charlotte this year, will be held in August and perhaps the local union will have some matters to transmit to its Charlotte delegates at the Sunday meeting.

'Free Speech' Clause Is No License For Breaking Unions, Court Rules

Chicago.—Free speech guarantees of the Constitution cannot be used as a cloak under which employers can hide to wage war against unionism in defiance of the Wagner Labor Act.

This declaration was the highlight of a significant ruling by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals here in a case involving the R. R. Donnelly & Sons Co., one of the largest printing firms in the world with a notorious anti-labor record.

The court, by a 2 to 1 decision, upheld an order of the National Labor Relations Board directing the company to cease its "union busting" tactics.

The company had contended during the court hearings that its activities and propaganda against the unions was protected by the "free speech" clause of the Constitution. This argument was answered in the majority opinion written by Justice Sherman Minton, former Senator from Indiana.

He cited the corporation's past record of using labor spies, black-

lists and terrorism to maintain its plant as an "open shop" fortress. Employes had to sign "yellow dog" contracts to stay out of a union if they wanted to hold their jobs. The company, Justice Minton said, conducted a "closed shop"—against unions.

During the entire decade since the Wagner Act was passed, the management continued to battle against unions, the jurist declared.

"The company went far beyond mere talk and argument with employes," Justice Minton pointed out. "Foremen were active against the unions. Employes were threatened that if the union came in they would lose many benefits. Also, the company maintained a vigilant surveillance of employes' union activities, which was calculated to intimidate the workers."

"In the light of this record, the company cannot cloak itself in the reinment of the first amendment to the Federal Constitution in order to justify and excuse such threats and intimidation."

"THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS." TODAY WE CALL IT RECONVERSION. ON JULY 4TH, 1776, WE DECLARED OUR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. TODAY, LET'S STRIVE FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IT, IT IS NECESSARY TO SPEND OUR UNION-EARNED WAGES WITH FIRMS THAT DISPLAY THE UNION LABEL, SHOP CARD, OR SERVICE BUTTON.

I. M. ORNBURN, Sec'y-Treas., Union Label Trades Dept., American Federation of Labor

Green Calls For Militant Battle Against State Anti-Labor Bills

Washington, D. C.—Grave warning that organized labor must fight to the limit attempts in many States to bring about enactment of vicious anti-labor legislation was sounded by AFL President William Green before the opening session of the annual convention of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects, and Draftsmen's Unions (AFL).

In a scathing attack on "labor-haters" who have set up organizations throughout the Nation "in the belief that now is the time to strike a blow at labor," Mr. Green declared:

"These groups have been extremely active in North and South Dakota, Kansas, Florida, Nebraska, Arkansas, Iowa and even California. Their influence has been evidenced in many other States. Their attack upon labor, through legislation, is being felt all along the line from coast to coast."

"They are attempting to drive through State Legislatures statutes to outlaw the closed shop, despite the fact that the closed shop principle has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. They are sponsoring other punitive legislation against the trade unions wherever they can get a foothold. Some law makers seem to believe that labor is merely a commodity, but they are wrong. The worker's toil is his own, and involuntary servitude is prohibited by the Constitution, except as punishment for crimes."

"Nor can the law makers change that basic of all laws, the law of economics. There can be no statute that can set aside that law, and those who think it can be done are following foolish, unsound reasoning. They just don't understand."

"Looking back over the session of Congress now drawing toward a close, Mr. Green said:

"We have had a tremendous fight with Congress. When I think of the emotion, hysteria and bitter hatred which have marked this session I am grateful that labor has fared as well as it has. President Truman's veto of the vicious Case Bill, which was vigorously fought every step of the way by the American Federation of Labor, was a great victory for labor. Never in our history has there been a worse bill."

Unrest and discontent during the reconversion period, the AFL leader told the convention, was only a natural consequence to the sharp change in living standards imposed by the end of the war.

"During the war period the workers toiled day and night, Sundays and holidays, and his take-home pay climbed," he said. "With the end of the war and the fall in production, his earnings dropped. No longer was he able to maintain the higher living standards he established with his war income. The postwar readjustment was much more difficult than the adjustment to war schedules."

"But those who criticize the reaction of the American worker could never, themselves, have passed through that period of tribulation and sacrifice as did the masses of labor."

RRA PLANS EXPANSION

Washington, D. C.—Plans to expand the field activities of the Labor Department's Retraining and Reemployment administration were announced by Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, chief of that agency.

N. D. FEDERATION TO MEET

Bismarck, N. D.—The annual convention of the North Dakota State Federation of Labor will be held at Minot, N. W., September 1 and 2. The convention scheduled there last year was cancelled because of wartime restrictions.