

Wyatt Charges Lobbyists Block Action On Housing

Washington, D. C.—A "shameful" lobbying campaign and "parliamentary filibustering tricks" are depriving the House of Representatives of a chance to pass upon an essential piece of legislation for veterans' housing—the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill—Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Expediter, charged.

Leaving a conference with President Truman, Wyatt intimated he and representatives of the National Public Housing Conference had appealed to the President to ask Congress to remain in session until it had passed this "general housing" bill. The measure has been vigorously urged by the AFL.

The group, representing State, municipal and housing officials throughout the country, charged in a statement released following their talk with the President that "a small minority" on the House

NATL POSTAL SUPERVISORS GIVEN CHARTER BY AFL

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor issued a charter July 12 to the National Federation of Postal Supervisors, of which John A. McMahon, Boston, is president, and J. H. Wakefield, Nashville, Tenn., is secretary. It has approximately 12,000 members.

The association's decision to affiliate with the AFL was reached by a majority of the delegates to the national convention in Chicago May 27, 28 and 29. This is the 105th national or international union granted an AFL charter.

BUILDING PAY RISES

Detroit.—The following wage increases were reported by the Detroit Building Trades Council for the last week:

For 7,000 construction laborers in the Detroit area, a 12 1/2-cent hourly raise to \$1.27 1/2; mortar mixers getting a 10-cent boost to \$1.35 and air and electrical tool operators a 10-cent boost to \$1.40.

For carpenters a 7 1/2-cent raise to \$1.82 1/2; painters, 2 1/2-cent jump to \$1.75.

Banking and Currency Committee was invoking "long-dormant legislative rules" in an effort to delay passage of the bill.

Without passage of this bill, S-1592, "there will be no homes for approximately 80 per cent of returning veterans and their families of middle and low income," it was stated.

Meanwhile, little hope was held by Congressional leaders that Congress would remain in session long enough to pass the bipartisan housing bill. Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley, upon leaving the "Congressional big four" conference with Mr. Truman, predicted that Congress would adjourn next week.

Speaker Sam Rayburn was reported to have told newsmen, moreover, that the housing bill could not possibly be passed by the House before adjournment, regardless of when it might come.

Mr. Wyatt, in a separate statement, offered to sacrifice the opportunity of the National Housing Agency to appear again before the Banking and Currency committee, and recommended that the opposition Representatives "be granted reasonable time" to state their objections.

"The same opposition that complains that there have not been enough hearings on the bill is responsible for obstructing the hearings through resort to the almost-never-invoked technicalities to make hearings impossible, and are completely neglectful of the weeks of public hearings on the same bill held by the Senate, in which they fully participated," Mr. Wyatt said.

William J. Guste, New Orleans attorney and president of the National Public Housing Conference, was spokesman for the group which called on Mr. Truman.

A. F. OF L. MAN HELPS RED CROSS



Munich, Germany—A vital link between Third Army occupation soldiers and their homes in the States, Pvt. Carmel "Joe" Southard, Dixon, Ill., member of the Hod Carriers and Building Labor Union—A. F. of L., is on detached service to the American Red Cross, delivering emergency messages and reports by courier jeep. He carries good and bad news from Munich to Army headquarters and to Red Cross field directors with units in isolated parts of Bavaria.

AFL Shows Steady Progress In Drive To Organize South

Atlanta, Ga.—Steady progress in the drive of the AFL throughout the South to organize the unorganized is reflected in reports pouring in upon George L. Googe, director of the AFL southern campaign.

A majority of the 475 employees of the Gordon Clay Co. in Gordon, Ga., has been organized by the Local 233, United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers International (AFL), and an NLRB election will be held soon.

This is the plant where Willie Dudley, flogged by "hooded men" who represented themselves as Klansmen, because he refused to drop his union membership, is employed. The flogging precipitated a nation-wide protest against anti-union activities in the South.

The Georgia Kailin Co., Dry Branch, Ga., was the scene of an election where the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers (AFL) won by a count of 320 to 21.

United Garment Workers (AFL) won an NLRB election of Fulton, Ky., among employees of the Henry I. Siegel Co.

Rome, Ga., policemen have applied for a charter from State, County and Municipal Employees' Union (AFL). The full strength of the department is enrolled.

United Auto Workers (AFL) won an election at Devoe-Reynolds, Louisville, employing 500.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters (AFL) at King Specialty Manufacturing Co., Mayfield, Ky., petitioned for an election. One hundred taxi drivers in Lexington, Ky., have been organized and negotiations on the contract have been about concluded.

A Building Service Employees local was chartered in Louisville.

The Kentucky State Federation of Labor is planning a series of weekly broadcasts over Station WHAS in Louisville.

These are only a few of the highlights showing the progress of the AFL campaign to bring into the organized labor movement a million unorganized Southern workers who will benefit by the advantages accorded to members of AFL unions.

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