

House Ways-Means Group Rejects Plea To Raise Social Security Tax

Washington, D. C.—Brushing aside fervent pleas by President Truman, AFL President William Green and veterans' organizations, Congress, intent on getting home for the approaching campaign, killed the Wagner-Taft-Ellender long-range national housing bill.

The action was taken by the House Banking committee, which dropped the measure by voice vote.

Rep. Brent Spence of Kentucky, chairman of the committee, aban-

doned his plans for a record vote after several Democratic members of the committee indicated they would vote with Republicans against a favorable report at this session. They demanded further hearings.

Spence said he was fearful an unfavorable vote at this time would injure future prospects for the legislation. He expressed confidence the bill can be passed if and when President Truman summons Congress into special session. The President said he would do this

if the limited price control law proved inadequate to halt inflation. Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt, echoing Spence's hope that something may yet be done on a long-term housing program, said: "If a special session of Congress is called, we hope and expect that the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill will be high on the calendar," said Wyatt. "If there is no special session, we will ask for the legislation as soon as Congress is convened in regular session."

The bill outlines a 10-year housing program to provide 1,500,000 dwelling units a year, including 125,000 public housing units.

Shortly before the committee acted, Mr. Green issued a statement in which he said:

"The House leadership is yet to discharge its full responsibility for the enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill before adjournment. After overwhelming approval by the Senate, the bill was shelved by the House for three months. It was sidetracked to give priority to the British loan. It was shunted aside again to give priority to the Philippine loan. Labor had given its fullest support to both loans as essential to world reconstruction. But labor wants to know whether the House leadership does not look upon American postwar reconstruction as deserving at least equal consideration with foreign postwar reconstruction. The Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill is basic to the rebuilding of postwar America. It is indispensable to the immediate emergency housing program for veterans. The House must pass it now in the form approved by the Senate."

"It is said that many members of the House have no time to act on the bill because they are anxious to go home to seek re-election. Labor says to them that the best they can do to get re-elected is to act on the Housing Bill before they leave Washington. The failure of the House of Representatives to act favorably on the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill before adjournment will bring bitter disappointment to millions of families of veterans and others left condemned to the privation of a chronic housing shortage, will generate industrial unrest and lead to dire political consequences."

RENT CLIMB LIMITED

San Francisco, Calif.—Although OPA rent controls no longer exist, California law provides that landlords must give tenants legal notice before raising rents. Legislative bodies in this city and other communities in California have passed ordinances limiting the increase in rent to 15 per cent over the levels in effect June 30 of this year. This legislation was necessary after OPA rules were suspended.

CONVENTION CALENDAR OF A.F.L. UNIONS

- Aug. 12—North Carolina State Federation of Labor—High Point, N. C.
- Aug. 17—International Typographical Union—Miami Beach, Fla.
- Aug. 17—Massachusetts State Federation of Labor—Undecided.
- Aug. 19—New York State Federation of Labor—Rochester, N. Y.
- Aug. 19—National Federation of Post Office Clerks—Milwaukee, Wis.
- Aug. 19—Utah State Federation of Labor—Price, Utah.
- Aug. 19—Wisconsin State Federation of Labor—Superior, Wis.
- Aug. 19—Photo Engravers Union of North America—Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Sept. 1—Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers—San Francisco, Cal.
- Sept. 2—National Association of Letter Carriers—Detroit, Mich.
- Sept. 3—Connecticut State Federation of Labor—Undecided.
- Sept. 3—Intl. Brotherhood of Labor—Scottsbluff, Neb.
- Sept. 11—Oklahoma State Federation of Labor—Shawnee, Okla.
- Sept. 15—Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16—United Slate, Tile, Comp. Roofers; DXW wrks.—Denver, Colo.
- Sept. 16—Bakery & Con. Workers' Intl. Union of Am.—Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16—Intl. Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers—Chicago, Ill.
- Sept. 16—Illinois State Federation of Labor—Rockford, Ill.
- Sept. 16—Minnesota State Federation of Labor—Mankato, Minn.
- Sept. 17—Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Wrks, Intl.—Montreal, Can.
- Sept. 20—American Wire Weavers Protective Ass'n, New York, N. Y.
- Sept. 21—New Hampshire State Federation of Labor—Portsmouth, N. H.
- Sept. 26—West Virginia State Federation of Labor—Huntington, W. Va.
- Sept. 30—Metal Trades Department—Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 2—Natl. Org. of Masters, Electrical Workers—San Francisco, Cal.
- Sept. 5—Intl. Association of Siderographers—Philadelphia, Pa.
- Sept. 9—Intl. Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers—Albany, N. Y.
- Sept. 9—United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union—Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Sept. 9—Intl. Association of Fire Fighters—Toledo, Ohio.
- Sept. 9—Operative Plasterers' Intl. of U. S. and Canada—Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Sept. 9—Kentucky State Federation of Labor—Owensboro, Ky.
- Sept. 9—Nebraska Federation of Mates and Pilots—San Francisco, San Francisco, Cal.
- Oct. 2—Building and Construction Trades Dept.—Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 4—Union Label Trades Department—Chicago, Ill.
- Oct. 5—Nat. Assn. Master Mech. and Foremen of N. Y.—Silver City, N. M.
- Nov.—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Silver City, N. M.
- Nov. 5—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON FEDERATION TO BUY RADIO STATION
Seattle, Wash.—Delegates to the annual convention of the Washington State Federation of Labor, in session here, instructed their officials to buy a radio station to combat anti-labor propaganda over employer-dominated networks. The session was attended by 730 delegates, the largest number in several years.
The convention endorsed exten-

sign of social security benefits to cover illness and accidents off the job, as well as a five-day week for State employes.

The Building Trades section reported that the carpenters had negotiated a wage increase with practically all building contractors in the State, boosting their scale in heavy industry to \$1.61 an hour. This marks a 10-cent hourly increase over the wages in adjoining states, it was said.

576,721 NEW HOMES

Washington, D. C.—Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Expediter and Administrator of the National Housing Agency, has announced that a total of 576,721 houses and apartments were authorized for construction with priorities assistance under the Veterans Emergency Housing Program from January 15 through June 28.

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