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GREEN SEES GRAVE DANGER IF COST CLIMB CONTINUES

Washington, D. C. — Expressing sincere disappointment over the emasculated OPA extension bill, AFL President William Green served grave warning on American business and industry that they must co-operate to maintain stable conditions "or face inevitable chaos."

In a statement issued following President Truman's signature of the new legislation, Mr. Green said:

"The American Federation of Labor is deeply disappointed by the inadequate new price control law passed by Congress and reluctantly approved by President Truman.

"This law is rigged to force higher prices all along the line. It is bound to increase the cost of living. It is certain to lower the purchasing power of the dollar.

"The cruel aspect of the situation is that now rigid wage controls will be restored under the Wage Stabilization Board. American workers will be compelled to fight frozen wages while prices rise.

"Unless industry and business exercise more self control than they have to date and voluntarily hold the line on prices, conditions may become insupportable to labor. Unrest will spread and a new strike wave may hit the nation.

"I have repeatedly appealed to all unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to conduct themselves with restraint and self-discipline and to refrain from any interruption of production because the sooner production is raised high enough to meet demand, the sooner all Government controls on wages as well as prices, can be dropped.

"I now warn American industry and business that they must co-operate to maintain stable conditions or face inevitable chaos."

HALF AMERICA'S FAMILIES RECEIVE LESS THAN \$2,000

Washington, D.C.—Nearly half of America's families have incomes below \$2,000 a year, and two out of three of them receive less than \$3,000, it was revealed in a joint survey of the Federal Reserve Board and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The figures represent the combined income of all members of each family! are based on 1945 income before taxes. As 1945 was a record year for individual income, the current average is believed to be less than shown in the survey.

About one in 10 families had pooled incomes of \$4,000 to \$7,500, and only one in each 33 or 34 had joint income totaling more than \$7,500.

These findings supplemented earlier announced results showing the mass of American families had no substantial amount of quickly cashable assets and two out of every five average less than \$40 each in saving bonds, other securities and bank deposits.

The new report showed the financial condition of the families which constituted the median, or middle-group, in each income bracket as:

Under \$1,000—Median income, \$600; Median assets in savings bonds, other securities and bank deposits, \$20.

\$1,000-\$1,999 — Median income \$1,500; median assets, \$230. \$2,000-\$2,999—Median income, \$2,400; median assets, \$470; \$3,000-\$3,999—Median income, \$3,300; median assets, \$900. \$4,000-\$4,999—Median income, \$4,300; median assets, \$1,450. \$5,000-\$7,499—Median income, \$5,500; median assets, \$2,700.

Jobless Benefit Payments Drop Throughout Nation

Grand Rapids, Mich. — Claims for unemployment benefits are decreasing throughout the country, Ewan Clague, director of the Employment Security Bureau of the Social Security Administration, told the annual convention of the Michigan State Federation of Labor.

"Under the unemployment insurance program, insured unemployment reached a high point of 1,912,000 in the week ended March 2, 1946; for the week ended May 18 it was down to 1,497,000, and for the week ended June 29, to 1,224,000," he said. "In Michigan, too, insured unemployment has declined, until by the end of June it was down to a level of about 87,000."

Michigan, he told the convention, was the first hit and hardest hit by unemployment immediately following the surrender of Japan. In the week ended September 8, 1945, no fewer than 14 per cent of the workers in jobs covered by Michigan's unemployment insurance law were filing claims for benefits, a ratio of one worker out

of seven. "In the months that followed," he said, "successive waves of unemployment spread to other States. By the middle of the winter, high ratios of unemployment existed in California, Washington and Oregon on the West Coast; New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island on the East Coast, and Oklahoma and Arkansas in the Middle West. Other States all so were affected to some extent.

"There has been a vast amount of interstate migration since the end of the war, just as there was an exceptional amount of it during the war. Many war workers are going back to their former homes; many are going to new places in search of postwar opportunities; and, of course, many are remaining in the war centers where they have lived now for some years.

"In our unemployment insurance system, a worker can file a claim for unemployment benefits anywhere in the country; his claim will be considered by any State in which he has benefit rights. Michigan is one of the States having the highest propor-

tion of interstate claims. In March, 1945, there were 40,000 interstate claims filed in other States against the State of Michigan—an average of about 10,000 a week. These claims were filed by former Michigan workers living in Kentucky, Tennessee, California, Illinois, Arkansas, Florida, and many other States. Michigan is not the only State in this situation—California, Oregon, Washington, Maryland, and other war-industry States have a similar situation.

"Now that reconversion is substantially over, the outlook is for

further declines in the payment of unemployment benefits in the months, and perhaps in the years, ahead."

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