

CONVENTION CALENDAR OF A.F.L. UNIONS

- 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. Cal.
- Nov.—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Silver City, N. M.
- Nov. 5—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Washington, D. C.

LABOR—U. S. A.

Washington, D. C.—The eleventh edition of the American Federation of Labor, USA program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

THE MARITIME PICTURE

By Nelson Cruikshank, Social Insurance Director of the AFL.

Out of the temporary turmoil surrounding the ship strike situation, two major developments of basic and permanent importance to the entire nation emerged this week.

First, President Truman emphasized at his press conference Thursday that he sees no need for asking Congress to adopt new legislation to curb strikes or to fix tighter controls on wages. Organized labor welcomes this decision.

Secondly, the Government affirmed the fundamental principle that wage increases—at least in part—can be absorbed by industry without any need for passing on the increased costs to consumers in the form of higher prices or higher rates.

This is the gist of the plan announced by Stabilization Director Steelman for settlement of the ship strike. To make it clear, perhaps I should briefly summarize the issue involved in the strike.

Last July, the Seafarers International Union negotiated new contracts with the ship owners calling for wage increases, shorter hours and other gains for the seamen. The contract later was submitted to the Wage Stabilization Board for approval. The Board approved the contracts with the exception of \$5 a month for seamen on the West Coast and \$10 a month on the East Coast.

The Board said the contracts were inflationary because they exceeded wage awards granted to CIO unions in the maritime field earlier by that very \$5 and \$10 a month. The AFL union insisted on the full amount of its contracts. It was perfectly justified in so doing. The Wage Stabilization Board then considered its earlier decisions and reaffirmed its previous disapproval but it pointed out that there was nothing to stop the ship owners from paying the extra amounts if they were willing to absorb the cost and not demand higher freight or passenger rates.

Mr. Steelman's decision took that final clause and made it the basis of the settlement of the dispute. The shipowners agreed to absorb the cost and the strike was called off.

This settlement will work no serious hardship to the ship operators. It has become the fashion in recent months to take it for granted that every wage increase inevitably must result in an equal or comparable price increase. That is economically false. High volume operation and high volume production reduce costs and make it possible for management to pay higher wages without any necessity for higher prices. As more ships are released by the Government to private operation, management will be able to reap greater profits despite the additional wage costs it is called upon to assume.

Labor regards this decision as a healthy development since higher prices quickly wipe out wage gains and leave the worker scarcely better off than he was before. If every wage increase is to be followed by a price boost, inflation will never be halted.

THE FOOD OUTLOOK

By Nathan Koenig, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture

From the information we have now, it looks like the world's supply of food will be slightly larger in the coming year than it was in the year just past. But world food supplies will still be less than they were before the war.

I have just come back from Europe, where I had a chance to study the food situation and to see what the farmers in several countries over there are doing to restore their own food production. And I can report to you that European farmers are doing a good job—the very best job that farmers can do despite shortages of draft power, hand tools, machinery, fertilizer, and good seed. Even with all these handicaps, European farmers are producing more cereal crops this year than last.

But food production in Europe has not yet come up to prewar

levels. In fact the world food situation is still such that the countries where food has been the shortest during the emergency will have to continue to practice wartime economy to make their domestic food supplies go farther—and some of them must continue to depend heavily on importing food from other countries.

Here in the United States we've been blessed with the greatest harvest in all our history. For the rest of this year, you and I can count on at least as much food as we had in the same period last year.

In spite of the trouble you may have had buying meat up to now, the meat supply per person for folks in the United States will probably average out to be larger this year than last. It may run something like 145 to 150 pounds a person—compared with 138 pounds last year. The free markets and high prices that prevailed for several weeks before price controls went back into effect last Tuesday, naturally resulted in a lot of animals going to market sooner than they ordinarily would. It was to be expected that livestock receipts at the principal markets this week would slump to a very low level—and they did. They are still low. But I think you can expect them to begin to pick up in the next couple of weeks or so and then continue at a reasonable level.

The present price ceilings on livestock recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture were decided on after very careful study to carry out the purpose of the Price Control law and the expression of policy which the Congress adopted. The policy was to fix prices at a level that would expand production where supplies were short until those supplies should equal demand.

In this particular instance the problem was to arrive at a price for livestock good enough to be an incentive to farmers to hold up production and yet be far below the runaway prices consumers paid in July and August—the period during which price controls were lapsed. The current meat prices are higher than the June 30 ceilings by an average of about three and three-quarter cents a pound. Agricultural authorities feel this is about the price needed to encourage farmers under present conditions to keep on producing the meat we need.

In spite of what has been said about a famine in meat during the past few days, there are some good sides to the picture. For one thing, pork production this fall and winter should be helped by the good pig crop this spring. These hogs will be coming to market this fall and winter. Also cattle have been going into feeder lots in substantial number in the past few weeks—to be fed for marketing next year.

We have more grain now so we can feed meat animals to heavier weights before marketing—and still have enough grain left over for food needs abroad.

homes for children needing day care, assist with orphans and the wards of juvenile court, aid unmarried mothers and children born out of wedlock, give assistance to children with behavior problems and to those who are mentally handicapped.

The Children's Bureau has found that outside the metropolitan areas the country over there are fewer welfare workers available to help with such problems and it is in these areas that the funds will be available to increase services.

No one can mistake where the Letter Carriers stand on the Communist issue after reading that resolution. And in order to make certain that the position of the American Federation of Labor is clearly understood, our convention instructed me to submit a similar resolution to the convention of the AFL which meets October 7 in Chicago. I am confident that the American Federation of Labor will adopt the resolution unanimously.

Such action will prove especially significant in view of the curious reluctance of certain unions not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to utter a single word in condemnation of Communism. I have one in mind which held a convention this week in the middle west. Its officers in their official report lavished praise on Soviet Russia and condemned the leaders of our Government who shape the foreign policy of the United States. This convention overwhelmingly defeated a mild resolution denouncing Communism and Fascism with equal force. And the officers, who were charitably described in the newspapers as left-wing, were re-elected by huge majorities.

This is a shocking demonstration of the extent to which Communists have succeeded in securing a grip on one branch of the labor movement in our country. Unless this trend is halted in its tracks, turmoil and internal strife will plague our country at a time when stability and unity are essential for the future peace and prosperity of our own nation and the entire world.

Have you paid your subscription to The Labor Journal for the new year? If not send it in today.

Your Taxes And Mine--

This is the tenth of a series of 12 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the AFL Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant for the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

HOW HIGH SHOULD OUR TAXES BE?

How much taxes should we pay? Experts disagree on the size of the federal budget in the post-war period. Their estimates range from 16 billion to 28 billion dollars a year. Interest on the federal debt alone will be almost as much as the federal budget of pre-war years.

How hard will the taxes pinch us? Surprisingly, even though they will be higher, they need not be nearly as much of a burden as they were before the war!

The real question is, "How high will taxes be in relation to the total national income?" It's easy to see that when federal taxes were half what they are today, they were harder to bear because the national income was only one-third its present size.

The way to manage our tax bill, without an excess of pain, then, is to keep the national income high. Taxes should be high enough to pay for the necessary services of the government, without depressing the purchasing power of the people.

Here are some suggestions on tax policy that will help meet these standards:

Remove federal wartime excise taxes (taxes on consumer goods).

Raise income tax exemption or reduce rates drastically in lower income brackets.

Drop liquor and tobacco taxes as major providers of revenue.

Substantial increase in revenue from estate and gift taxes.

It is believed by most tax economists that excise taxes and income taxes on the lower incomes cut down the consumption of essential goods, doing harm to the economy and to the people.

A good tax program is one that encourages consumption.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS GET INCREASED U. S. FUNDS

(Continued from Page 1)

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More deaths occur annually from accidents in the home than are caused by traffic accidents, the National Safety Council reveals. Over 75% of the accidents incurred by elderly people in the home result from falls... usually on stairways. Falls from ladders account for many of the accidents to children.

These accidents can be greatly lessened by simple precautions in the home, such as securing the end of ladders and effectively lighting stairways.

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