

**AFFILIATE
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CENTRAL LABOR
UNION
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N. C. FEDERATION
NOW!**

**Unionists, Do Everything Within Your Power To
Aid In the Southern A. F. L. Membership Drive**

**Working For A Better Understanding Between
North Carolina AFL Unions and Employers of Labor**



"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."—Samuel Gompers.

Charlotte Labor Journal

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SURVEY REVEALS HUGE RISE IN FOOD COSTS

SOUTHERN DRIVE STRONGLY BACKED BY URBAN LEAGUE

Washington, D. C. — The National Urban League, at its recent convention in St. Louis, voted wholeheartedly support of the drive to organize the South and pledged every support to implement the campaign.

Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the League, which was organized for social service among Negroes in a letter to AFL President William Green, in which he enclosed a resolution adopted on this subject, said:

"Needless to say, we view the Southern organizing campaign with the greatest hope and enthusiasm. Negro and white workers in that oppressed region must join together to advance their mutual interest in industrial democracy and freedom of opportunity.

"They deserve, and desperately need, all the aid possible in this effort from all organizations truly interested in making democracy meaningful for all the people."

In its resolution the League promised support in the current efforts of democratic unions to organize the South and urge their full support by the Negro community, and urge discriminatory and nondemocratic unions to discontinue their practices."

BRADLEY FEARS FOR VETERANS WHO WASTE JOBLESS BENEFITS

Washington, D. C.—Stern warning that there is rough sledding ahead for veterans who are exhausting their unemployment benefits recklessly was sounded here by Veterans Administrator Omar Bradley.

"I am greatly concerned over the rate at which many veterans are expending their readjustment allowances," General Bradley said in an interview.

"A veteran who lies idle for a year, living on unemployment checks in a period when jobs are more plentiful than they may be later, might find it hard to get work and to get to work when his readjustment allowance ends," General Bradley warned.

"That veteran is losing seniority and experience leading to a better job.

"He is forfeiting the cushion of his deferred unemployment payments—a cushion that is like money in the bank, assuring him of an income should he lose his job any time within the two-year limit after the war has been officially declared ended."

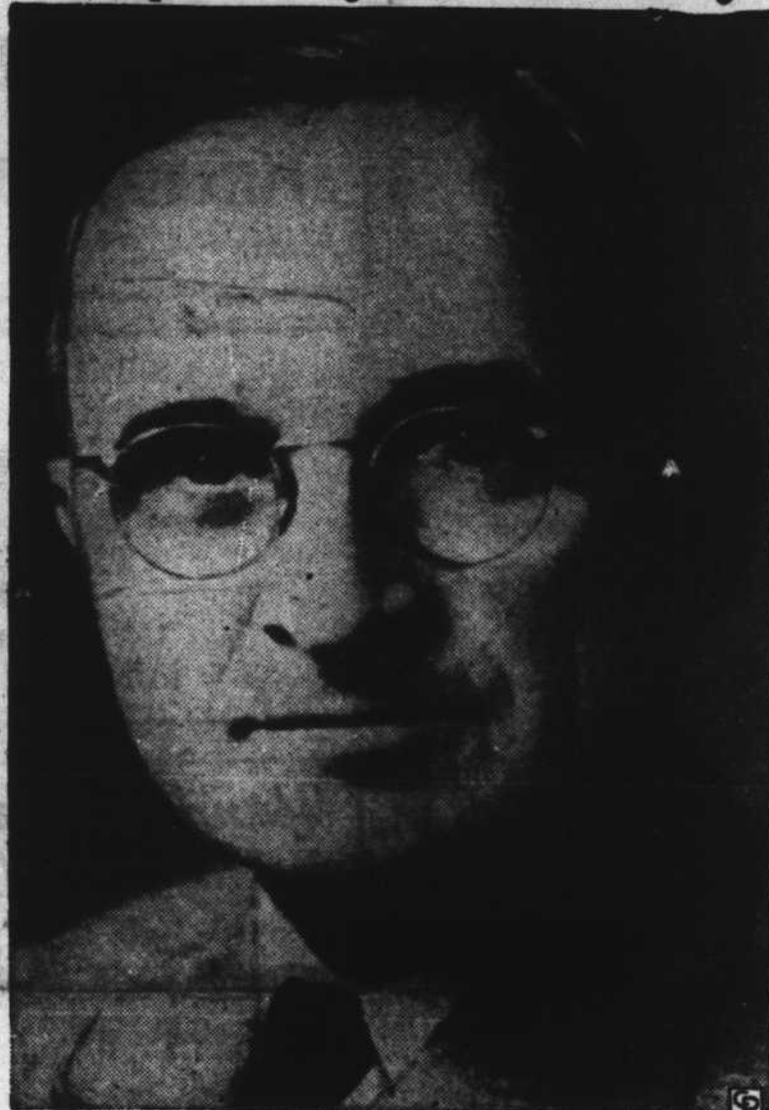
Unemployed veterans are allowed \$20 a week for a maximum of 52 weeks, or \$100 a month for 10 2-5 months if they are self-employed but without income.

General Bradley said he is eager to get back to Army life, but hopes to continue as Veterans Administrator long enough to complete important unfinished business.

TRUMAN DOESN'T EXPECT TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has made it clear that he has no intention of calling a special session of Congress. When questioned at a recent news conference to clear up speculation on this subject, the President emphatically stated that such current rumors were untrue.

Truman Refuses To Resign



TEAMSTERS UNION WARNS AGAINST WILDCAT STRIKES

Stern warning that wildcat strikes had become a national menace was served upon member unions of the International Teamsters Union (AFL), in an article published in the current issue of the International's magazine, "International Teamster." The article said in part:

"Some members of this organization believe that strike benefits are automatic. They think all they have to do is to quit work and the International begins paying them. These members are mistaken, as many of them learned to their discomfiture after disconnecting themselves from the payrolls.

"To receive strike benefits a strike must be authorized by the International. But before the question is even referred to the International for approval, several specific steps must be taken by the local union, the most important of which is a secret ballot of the membership. Unless a strike is approved by a two-thirds vote, the International cannot consider it. The preliminary steps to a strike are clearly set forth in the International constitution, which governs the procedure of all local unions.

"Once the International approves the strike, the sky is the limit. No expense will be spared to win it.

"Strikes have become a national menace. They are an invitation to inflation and depression. They must be curtailed or the nation will sink into chaos and organized labor will perish."

NEW YORK SHIP-TRUCK TIE-UPS END AS COMPANIES GRANT WAGE RAISES

New York City — The most serious transportation tie-up ever experienced here came to an end when the shipping and general trucking strikes were brought to a quiet end and picket lines were withdrawn.

The trucking strike came to a virtual end in its 58th day when holdout truck operators broke ranks and rushed to sign agreements with the AFL teamster unions on the basis of the Bohack wage award of 31 cents an hour increase. Operators' terminals were scenes of intense activity as they prepared to get their trucks rolling again.

The 28-day tie-up of 1,181 vessels in Atlantic and Gulf ports ended when the membership of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, ratified an agreement reached here between union officials and ship operators. Pickets were immediately removed from the dock-side of 410 ships here and there were promises that the

VALUE OF DOLLAR DOWN 31¢ SINCE '41' BLS STUDY SHOWS

Washington, D. C. — The purchasing power of the dollar shrank 31 cents between January, 1941, and last September 15, it was revealed in a study by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The shrinkage up to last June was reported at 24 cents.

One official said the shrinkage would probably continue as a result of Office of Price Administration action in removing price ceilings from all but 3 per cent of foods. Foods account for 44.3 per cent of the items priced by the department's consumer index for measuring the purchasing price of a dollar.

The BLS report said in a study of wage reopening clauses in union contracts that this is the principal reason why unions are seeking cost-of-living pay increases for more than 8,000,000 workers whose contracts can be reopened for wage negotiations.

BLS said there had been a big increase since the end of the war in the number of union contracts which provide for wage reopening in event of a rise in the cost of living. It said that in 1939, the number of contracts that could be reopened on wages was 5 per cent. It rose to 40 percent by 1942. Then wage stabilization was enacted by Congress and the War Labor Board ordered these clauses eliminated or suspended.

Toward the end of its existence, however, the board authorized reopening of wage contracts if there was a significant change in Government wage stabilization policy. BLS said this brought a sharp rise in the number of contracts with reopening clauses. More than 70 per cent now contain them based on a study of 99 key contracts which set wage patterns in 22 major industries.

"These unions do not want wages to remain frozen a year or longer, depending on the length of the contract term, in the face of important recurring price and other changes in the economy which may seriously undermine the standard of living of the workers affected by the contract," the bureau stated.

"In a stable economy, with an adequate supply of goods and services on the market at fairly stable prices, the monetary wage comes pretty close to measuring also the wage earner's real wages. But when wages remain unchanged and prices rise, the purchasing power of the dollar declines and workers suffer a decrease in real wages and, consequently, also in their standard of living."

PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING INCREASED BY \$165,000,000

Washington, D. C.—A budget estimate just released by President Truman states that Federal spending for civilian public works this fiscal year will exceed the \$90,000,000 limit he set August 1 by \$165,000,000.

BRICK OUTPUT PICKS UP

New Orleans, La.—The most critical production difficulties resulting from wartime and reconversion problems have been overcome in the brick and tile industry, J. Earnest Fender, president of the Structural Clay Products Institute, announced. He predicted that the brick industry "will soon face a period when inventories can be rebuilt to normal proportions."

W. U. TELEGRAPHERS GET 50 MILLIONS SINCE VJ-DAY

Denver, Colo.—Reports to the convention of the Western Union Division, Commercial Telegraphers Union (AFL), in session here, showed wage gains of \$85,000,000 a year for 50,000 employes since V-J Day.

The last increase amounts to \$22,044,000 annually. This supplements the War Labor Board award of last December, representing a gain of \$47,000,000 a year. The 85-million figure includes back pay and the current award.

Twice during the convention the delegates hurled at the Western Union the threat of a strike. Despite the company's acceptance of the recent 16½-cent-an-hour recommendation of a fact-finding board, delegates reported wholesale chiseling and the start of a so-called economy program which, they declared, was aimed at nullifying the increase. The second strike threat was sent when delegates received word from members back home that, although the company agreed to meet officials and from out the controversy, antiunion practices were being continued.

J. A. Payne was reelected national president, beginning his sixth term; Henry G. Steinbrenner of Chicago, was elected to be legislative national vice president, a new position, and Adam Bauer was reelected as national secretary-treasurer.

The regional directors, elected were Jerry Walters, Los Angeles; I. Douglas Holcombe, Denver; T. T. Freeman, Cleveland; E. S. Edwards, Charlotte; F. C. Poli, Washington, and J. F. Fitzgerald, New York. The above six, together with seven regional chairmen elected by referendum, comprise the national executive board. The next convention will be in October, 1947, in Los Angeles.

RECORD PICKLE CROP

Chicago, Ill.—According to a report from the National Pickle Packers Association, the nation's biggest pickle crop on record is practically completed. A total of 8,532,524 bushels came off a record acreage of 143,838 and topped a previous record of 8,307,000 bushels in 1942.

INDEPENDENT PEDDLERS OF SOFT DRINKS HELD FULLY SUBJECT TO UNIONIZATION

New York City — Members of a union cannot be compelled to service independent dealers of soft drinks beverages, and such independents are themselves subject to unionization, under a ruling handed down by the Appellate Division of the Second Department here.

By the terms of this finding, the court voided a temporary injunction signed last June 15 by Supreme Court Justice Algernon I. Nova in a representative action filed by more than 200 distributors who sell mainly to householders and who allegedly operate "a one-man business." Principals in the action were the Soft Drink Workers Local 812, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL), and the Five-Boroughs Carbonated Beverage Manufacturers Association.

"The peddlers are proper subjects for unionization," the court ruled. "The members of the union cannot be compelled by injunction to load the trucks of non-union peddlers, or to continue employment with an employer

INCREASES UP TO 600 PER CENT NOTED IN PRICES ASKED OVER 7-YEAR PERIOD

Washington, D. C.—The almost unbelievable climb in living costs in the United States in the last seven years is thrown into bold relief by a comparison of food advertisements published in Washington newspapers in June, 1939, and those appearing November 1, 1946.

Increases as high as 500 and 600 per cent were noted in basic and routine items on the average American table.

In the field of meat an examination of the advertisements by the same chain store revealed that rib roast of beef on June 23, 1939, was being sold in Washington at 25 cents a pound and had soared by November 1, 1946, to 69 cents a pound.

PRINTERS VOTE MILLION-A-YEAR STRIKE RESERVE

Chicago.—Unofficial returns of a referendum vote taken October 23 among the 80,000 members of the International Typographical Union (AFL) show the members on record for assessing themselves \$1,000,000 annually for conduct of strikes if necessary and for increasing benefits for strikers.

This was one of 15 propositions adopted at the ITU convention in Miami in August, all of which had to be put to a referendum by the membership as amendment to the constitution.

The defense-fund proposition was adopted by Local 16 in a vote of 2,968 to 592. It provides that a minimum fund of \$500,000 be maintained at all times by the ITU, though the levy of a one-half of 1 per cent assessment on earnings of all active ITU members, for three months after the fund reaches the minimum.

At the convention Don Hurd, ITU secretary-treasurer, estimated that the assessment would equal \$1,000,000 annually if the strike fund remained below \$500,000 because of benefits paid to strikers.

The new strike-benefit plan would increase weekly strike benefits of married members to 60 per cent of their weekly wage scales and for single member to 40 per cent. Present benefits are 40 per cent for the ITU member who is married, and 25 per cent for the member who is single.

Journal advertisers are friends of Labor—buy from them and say you saw it in The Labor Journal.

Chuck roast, which seven years ago sold for from 15 to 17 cents per pound, is being currently offered at 45 cents.

Leg o' lamb, which went begging at 27 cents a pound, now draws 55 cents, if and when it can be had.

Pork roast in the middle of 1939 was being advertised here at 11 cents a pound. Today it was listed at 63 cents a pound.

Hams, which sold seven years ago at 25 cents a pound, today bring 49 cents.

Veal cutlets, priced at 33 cents in 1939, today are 69 cents a pound.

Eggs were advertised in 1939 at two dozen for 35 cents. Today a single dozen sells for between 49 and 75 cents per dozen.

Peas back in 1939, in No. 2 cans, were being advertised two cans for 23 cents. Today they are being offered at from 13 to 29 cents for the same size can.

Coffee was being advertised in 1939 at two pounds for 35 cents. Today the same brand is being offered at two pounds for 61 cents.

Tuna fish, which seven years ago sold at two seven-ounce cans for 23 cents, today costs 34 cents per can.

Sliced peaches, which could be purchased in 1939 at two cans for 25 cents, now sell for 25 cents per can.

These are only a few typical examples of the enormous soaring in American living costs within the last seven years. Attention has been called repeatedly by labor leaders to these steadily increasing living costs as justification for requests in pay revisions. Speculation plays no part in these reports. They are taken solely from paid advertisements in daily papers.

Some other articles highly advertised in 1939, but for which no immediate comparison is found in current food advertisements, are:

Beans and pork, three one-pound cans at 10 cents; strip bacon, 17 cents a pound; shoulder veal roast, 13 cents a pound; frankfurters, 19 cents a pound; bologna, 17 cents; fresh cherries, 14 cents a pound; toilet tissue, four rolls at from 15 to 25 cents.

This is only a comparison of food and other important item costs and does not take into consideration the accompanying increase in other necessities, including clothing and home furnishings.

Government agencies reporting on the increased cost of living, and a number of private indexes, have differed on their conclusions chiefly because their studies are reported to have been spread over varying periods.

However, it is unanimously conceded by reports of all these surveys that the cost of living in the United States throughout the war and since has experienced a tremendous increase. The most recent report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the shrinkage of the dollar at 31 cents between January, 1941, and last September 15.

(Continued On Page 3)