

Editorial

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AFL OFFICIALS CONDEMN TARIFF POLICY

Officials of the American Federation of Labor, appearing before the State Department's Committee for Reciprocity Information, have been sharply critical of the policy followed by this government and bluntly charged the department with a "lack of interest in the welfare of American workers."

John B. Haggerty, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Allied Printing Trades Association and president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, told the committee:

"The printing tradesmen of the United States, highly skilled and likewise highly organized, realize the very apparent efforts of State Department officials to deprive them of their work opportunities."

Mr. Haggerty told the committee that the workers in the printing trades are not seeking any monopoly, that they want only a fair wage under American living standards, and a fair profit for their employers, but are being increasingly annoyed "by efforts of the State Department to have the manufacturing provisions of the Copyright Act, modified, repealed or nullified."

Concluding a strong statement on the entire issue of tariffs and the competition of cheap labor, Mr. Haggerty called for a careful study of the changed conditions in many foreign countries and of competitive conditions prevailing in the production of books and other printed matter.

James M. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters (AFL), another witness before the committee, cited reports of the Tariff Commission, showing that competitive pottery articles produced in Germany and Japan were being delivered into the American market at from 40 to 60 per cent of American costs of comparable items.

He stated that with a labor cost of some 60 per cent, and, with wages paid to American workers of \$1.20 per hour compared with wages of 24 cents per hour paid to British workers and six cents per hour paid to workers in Japan a tariff rate which will equalize the difference in labor costs was necessary if we were to maintain work opportunities for American pottery workers.

Conceding that it was good military strategy to prevent Japan and Germany producing munitions of war for many years, but insisting that these countries be allowed to produce articles which could be sold in other countries, including the United States, in order that the peoples of those countries could feed and clothe themselves, instead of being a drain on the American taxpayers, President Duffy insisted that, unless tariff rates are placed in effect which will equalize the difference in costs of production that jobs of American workers will be transferred to the workers in these and other countries, due to the difference in wages paid.

President Duffy insisted that competitive imports which are delivered into American markets at total costs which are less than American costs of production in fact nullifies the intent and the purpose of the Asiatic Exclusion and the Restrictive Immigration laws.

Harry H. Cook, Ohio, president of the American Flint Glass Workers' Association (AFL), told the committee the State Department has agreed to tariff rates which findings of the Tariff Commission did not find were equalized in production costs.

Stripping aside all veneer, Mr. Cook bluntly told the committee:

"When we examine the situation of American and Czechoslovakian products, it is quite clear that our own government has knowingly sold our American glassware workers down the river."

President Cook quoted a statement of William Green, President, American Federation of Labor, on Trade Agreements, as follows:

"We are certainly committed to the protection of American standards, and we could not be influenced by anybody to support legislation that we believed would lower American standards of living; we still possess the power to handle our own domestic affairs so far as Tariff and Reciprocal Trade Agreements are concerned, and when efforts are made to eliminate obstacles to trade between nations, workers must be assured that lower tariffs do not mean lower labor standards. Labor thinks that it should be a fixed and determined policy, on the part of the government, to protect labor against lower standards of living and lower standards of wages in the negotiation of reciprocal trade agreements, and that in all these agreements consideration should be given to the degree of protection that ought to be accorded to labor and industry in our own country."

CLOTHING INDUSTRY BACKS AFL STAND

Employers in the Nation's 800-million-dollar-a-year men's clothing industry have thrown their wholehearted support behind the stand of the American Federation of Labor against legislation to outlaw the closed shop.

The stabilizing influence obtained through the closed shop and collective bargaining are clearly demonstrated throughout the clothing industry, declared Victor S. Riesenfeld, who has headed the bargaining committee of the U. S. Clothing Manufacturers' Association since it was founded in 1939.

Asserting that legislation which would impose important curbs on collective bargaining would represent "a backward step" in the opinion of clothing manufacturers, Riesenfeld said that industry-wide bargaining has proved an important factor in ending cut-throat competition in the clothing field.

As Riesenfeld was issuing his statement, the General Ex-

ecutive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, meeting in New York, ended its quarterly session with a sound warning that anti-labor measures now being studied in Congress could result only in "provoking new bitterness, resentment and discontent" and toss into a questionable balance all peaceful-labor relations throughout the country.

The views of the board were clearly set forth in a telegraphic message to Senator Taft of Ohio, newly elected chairman of the Senate Labor and Welfare Committee. It was signed by David Dubinsky, president of the union and a vice president of the AFL. It contained a strong appeal to the Senate to eschew "hysteria and vengefulness" in its approach to labor legislation.

The message from the ILGWU took sharp issue with the Ball bill, which would outlaw the closed shop and bargaining on an industry-wide basis.

Employer groups animated by a desire for industrial peace, accept the union shop as "the only effective and rational method of maintaining it," the union asserted. Taking issue with the argument that the closed shop made unions monopolistic, the garment workers likened the requirements that workers join unions to the obligation of citizens to "forego certain prerogatives for the sake of the community as a whole."

Industry-wide bargaining was defended as a "logical and natural" method of carrying on stable relations between organized workers and employers in modern industry.

Contributions totaling \$470,000 were voted by the executive board for domestic and overseas relief activities. Included was a donation of \$75,000 for construction of a trade school at Palermo, Sicily, and a four-year maintenance fund of \$100,000.

The Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Labor Committee were voted \$100,000 each. The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies received \$50,000 and the Organization for Rehabilitation and Training (ORT) \$45,000.

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AFL UNIONS IN BALTIMORE ORGANIZE POLITICAL UNIT TO PUSH LABOR AIMS

Baltimore, Mo.—Delegates from most of Baltimore's 130 American Federation of Labor's locals, in what was described in the press here as organized labor's most important bid for a strong voice in politics, voted unanimously to form the Nonpartisan Political League of Baltimore. The meeting at which the decision was reached was held in the Plumbers' Hall.

Robert J. Buxbaum, president of the Baltimore and District of Columbia Federation of Labor, urged all members of the new group to take an active interest in all legislative proposals affecting labor.

The Nonpartisan Political League, which intends to be well-organized to participate strongly in the May city elections, will be composed of five delegates from each AFL local and the Baltimore Federation of Labor.

CONNOLLY PICKED TO HEAD LABOR STANDARDS OFFICE

Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach has appointed William L. Connolly as Director of the Labor Standards Division. Mr. Connolly is a member of the International Typographical Union. He was president of the Rhode Island State Federation of Labor for 10 years, and for the past 6 years was Director of Labor for the State of Rhode Island.

DOCK TRUCKERS GAIN

New Orleans, La.—The Teamster Local 965 here has organized Terry Smith & Son, Inc., employees. These are truck drivers and helpers whose work is hauling and stevedoring for longshoremen in loading and unloading ships. The hourly rate for all workers before organization was 65 cents an hour. The new contract established a minimum of 80 cents to \$1.10.

AFL TEXTILE UNION WINS

Nashville, Tenn.—United Textile Workers (AFL) here have won an election at Southern Spinning Mill. The company employs over 300 workers in production and maintenance.

AFL UNION IN W. VA. WINS

Richwood, W. Va.—Members of Federal Labor Union 23103 (AFL) won an election here at the Wallace Corporation. This election involved 115 company employees.

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DROP 110,000 FROM PAYROLL BY JULY 1

Washington, D. C.—Plans to drop at least 110,000 more employees from the Federal payroll by next July 1 were revealed by Joseph E. Winslow, personnel adviser of the Budget Bureau, in testimony before the Senate Civil Service Committee.

Winslow explained that this figure referred to people who will be laid off in the United States and overseas and not merely to jobs discontinued. Then he went on to point out that the number of people to lose their jobs probably would be greater than 110,000, since "part-time equivalents" of full-time employees were included. That is, he said, two part-time employees might be laid off instead of one full-time worker.

In executive session after its hearings, the committee agreed to launch an immediate investigation into agencies operating cafeterias and lunchrooms in Federal buildings.

Winslow told the committee, seeking to reduce Government costs by streamlining employment, that the 110,000 slash would bring the number of employees down to 2,176,600 from a wartime high of 3,722,000 June 30, 1945.

In the last six months of 1946, he said, 435,000 employees were dropped. He said that savings, "if any," would have to be made in the War, Navy, Postoffice and Treasury Departments and the Veterans Administration, which employ 78 per cent of the total.

WASHINGTON TYPO UNION GETS SUBSTANTIAL RAISE

Washington, D. C.—An increase of 34.1 cents an hour was accepted overwhelmingly by members of the Columbia Typographical Union here. The raise will be retroactive to August 10.

Under terms of the new agreement, the hourly rate of printers, machine operators and proofreaders in job shops will be boosted to \$1.87 per hour on a 37 1/2 hour week.

Newspaper printers settled their scale several weeks ago and the scale of the Government Printing Office was approved also by the Joint Printing Committee. Under the new agreement an increase of 20 per cent was approved for some 2,900 in the GPO.

INSECURITY INCREASES TENSION AMONG GROUPS IN U. S., PARLEY IS TOLD

Rising economic insecurity since the end of the war has increased tension among groups in the United States, Howard E. Wilson, chairman of the Commission on Educational Organizations of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, said yesterday.

The aim of his organization is to have all groups in America "properly adjusted" to one another, Mr. Wilson said. The commission concluded its annual meeting here yesterday in the Willard Hotel.

Dr. Hilda Taba, of Chicago University and director of inter-group education in co-operating schools, said promises made during the war and not lived up to since have caused some tension. She said this was particularly true of veterans from minority groups of the population.

The commissioners recently completed a survey of textbooks used in school and concluded they are "not guilty of planned derogation of groups, but are guilty of failing to come to grips with basic issues in the complex problems of human relations."

It advocated a change in the course of studies in schools, contending that "only as those courses of study demand the inclusion of topics on inter-group relations, some of which are inevitably controversial, will the textbooks be substantially improved."

Other projects now under way and discussed by the commission in their closed meetings here include work in 18 public school systems being performed by a staff of experts in human relations, a teacher training program, and a program for college students.

RECORD GLASS OUTPUT

New York City—An unprecedented demand for glass in the building industry last year brought into play reserve production facilities boosting output to a new peak, it was reported here by the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. The company announced production of a record volume of polished plate glass and window glass, in addition to safety glass for automotive requirements.

Uncle Sam Says



Abraham Lincoln's birthday should be a reminder to my niece and nephews that they have the opportunity to emancipate themselves from future insecurity by buying United States Savings Bonds regularly. Every time you buy a bond you've added something to the future you're creating—a home, an education for your children, a secure old age for yourself. Every signed payroll savings authorization card is a personal emancipation proclamation—emancipation from the slavery of a future hand-to-mouth existence. Every regular purchase of a Savings Bond at your bank, post office or where you work is another step toward future happiness.
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