

Schwellenbach Regards Stabilization As A Major Industrial Peace Factor

Washington, D. C.—Health and welfare fund clauses in collective bargaining contracts were approved by Labor Secretary Schwellenbach in his annual report to Congress as "an effective and flexible means of providing greater social security through collective bargaining."

In his report to Congress Mr. Schwellenbach summarized the year's developments in labor legislation and emphasized that stabilization of the economy would help more than any other thing to promote industrial peace.

He stated that under stabilized conditions, "collective bargaining can best play its creative role in advancing the standard of life of the workers and in protecting their status as human beings. Lack of stability, however, may provide the basis for a renewal of the industrial strife that characterized much of the first post-war year."

It was in connection with his discussion of stabilized industrial conditions that he spoke approvingly of the increasing use of health and welfare funds in union contracts.

While he felt that the general economic outlook for the immediate future is favorable if price stability is quickly achieved, Mr. Schwellenbach felt that "the test for the postwar economy will come when the deferred demand of the war years for capital goods and equipment has been met."

He added that "our economic health must depend mainly, of course, upon the foresight and adaptability of labor, management and farmers in working together through their organizations and their Government for general, sustained prosperity."

The Secretary urged that "stability must be assured at a high

level of output, and the products of industry must be equitably distributed among those who co-operate in their production. We need a clearer understanding of the fact that farm income and the welfare of farmers are inseparably linked with earnings and real incomes of city workers.

"There is general agreement that steps to improve efficiency and increase the flow of goods in short supply is vital alike to the success of the new price controls and to the advancement of wages and living standards."

"Turning to the question of labor disputes, the Secretary warned against the dangers of punitive legislation enacted in haste and without comprehensive study, and pointed out that industrial strife is actually a symptom of basic economic maladjustments."

"Insecurity is a primary cause of industrial unrest," he declared.

"In a period of reconversion, with rising prices, scarcity of commodities and the consequent threat to workers' living standards, peaceful adjustments are much more difficult to attain. Hence the problem of labor-management disputes could not be solved by legislation limited to the establishment of techniques for the expeditious settlement of such disputes."

MEAT CUTTERS IN GEORGIA GRANTED WAGE INCREASE

Columbus, Ga.—The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen has a new contract with Wilson Co. interests here. It provides for an allowance of 50 cents each week for work clothes and 10 minutes each day compensation time for changing into them.

The contract also provides an 11 1-2 cents an hour increase across the board and the night shift differential is upped from 5 5/8 to 7 per cent.

The total of all new wage increments provided in this contract means an annual increase to these workers of \$323. Three years ago, when this group was organized, they were getting 40 cents an hour, and the hourly rate is now 92 cents.

RAILWAY CLERKS IN CANADA WIN RAISES FOR TWO GROUPS

Ottawa, Can.—Members of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks won ten cents an hour wage increases for two groups of its organization, the Railway Express Agency employes in Canada, and employes of the Canada Steamship Lines, a subsidiary of the Government-owned Canadian National rail system.

The increases were granted by the National War Labor Board after extensive hearings. The award to the express employes is retroactive to June 1, 1946, and the other to August 8.

In the express case, the Brotherhood sought a raise of 18 1-2 cents an hour, the increase won by the Clerks for similar employes in the United States. The board said "No," on the ground that the Express Agency has always paid lower wages in Canada.

A few months ago the unions won 10-cent boosts for almost all Canadian rail workers.

SHELL-FISH WORKERS WIN RECOGNITION IN VIRGINIA

Atlanta, Ga.—Recognition agreements have been secured by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen in the shell-fish and oyster processing and packing industry along the Virginia coast with the following companies: Ballard Fish and Oyster Co., J. H. Miles & Co., and F. H. Ayers & Son, all of Norfolk, Va. Approximately 1,000 workers are involved in these agreements and the potential will run to many thousands more.

The International has established a labor rate of 72 cents and 75 cents an hour, 75 to 85 cents per gallon for shucking oysters, and \$1.25 per 100 pounds for dressing fish.

Garment Union Votes Pensions

New York City.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, (AFL), which has been seeking employer-financed pension plans for all its 350,000 members, decided to set an example for industry by establishing a retirement fund for its own paid officers.

David Dubinsky, president of the union, said benefits ranging up to 50 per cent of their regular salaries would be paid to men retiring at the age of 60 and women retiring at the age of 55. The union will pay two-thirds of the cost of the retirement system and the officer-beneficiaries will contribute the remaining one-third.

Officers who are voted out of office or decide to leave voluntarily before reaching the retirement age will receive a full refund of their direct contributions to the pension system. A similar refund will be made to the families of those who die before retirement. In cases of total disability resulting from accident or illness, the retirement allowance will become payable at once without regard for age.

The pensions will be geared to length of service, with two per cent of normal salary being allowed for each year up to a maximum of 50 per cent for 25 years. The first retirement payments from the fund will be paid January 1, 1949, Mr. Dubinsky said.

About 700 officers of the international union and its affiliated locals and joint boards are covered by the program. Each will contribute 6 per cent of his weekly pay to the fund. The local union will contribute an amount equal to 7 1/2 per cent and the international office the remaining 2 1/2 per cent. The full 10 per cent will be paid by the parent union for those on its own staff.

Mr. Dubinsky asserted that it was the basic responsibility of government to provide all citizens with a sufficient income for their old age but that the inadequacy of the present social security system made it necessary for unions to seek ways of providing supplementary benefits.

"We have placed the problem of retirement payments to all the workers in our industry on the union's agenda, and have already secured a retirement fund for the 35,000 men and women employed in the coat and suit factories in New York.

"The officers' retirement fund which we are now establishing in our union is prompted by the same considerations. The men and women who are devoting their lives to the service of their fellow-members are certainly entitled to a substantial measure of old-age security. I am confident of its successful operation and I am certain that it will be accepted as an incentive to loyal and consistent service to the cause of labor."

WORKERS DIVIDE ON BOOM OR BUST

Chicago, Ill.—The United Auto Workers (AFL) here polled its 250,000 members on the prospects of "boom or bust," and found them almost evenly divided on the question. Fifty-nine per cent voted "boom" and 21 per cent of these thought it would last for two years, while 20 per cent thought it would go on for five years, and 5 per cent saw long-term prosperity ahead. Of the 41 per cent who predicted a "bust," 33 per cent believed it would be upon us in a year and 16 per cent saw it holding off for two years.

The workers thought the best way to combat inflation was by:

1. Intensified buyers' strikes.
2. High excess profit taxes.
3. Restoration of price controls.
4. More production.
5. Competition.

Fifty-six wanted guaranteed regular employment, leaving out the wage issue, more than anything else.

12 INSURANCE LOCALS ESTABLISHED IN SOUTH

Atlanta, Ga.—In the South, many groups of wage earners are working up to the solid benefits of AFL organization. Among them are the industrial insurance agents, and 12 locals have been established since August in the following cities: Baton Rouge and New Orleans, La.; Biloxi, Miss.; Tampa and Orlando, Fla.; Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Macon and Columbus, Ga.; Charleston and Columbia, S. C.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

ONE-TENTH OF OUR POPULATION HAS NO SAVINGS, WHILE THE TOP TENTH HAS 60%.

AT THE PEAK OF WARTIME EMPLOYMENT THERE WERE 8,000,000 WORKERS HOLDING JOBS WHO ORDINARILY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THE LABOR FORCE. SINCE THEN, ABOUT 5,000,000 HAVE GONE BACK HOME.

YOUR GUARANTEE OF THE BEST HAT AT THE PRICE IS THE UNION LABEL. LOOK FOR IT UNDER THE SWEATBAND!

Central Labor Union Condemns Proposed Anti-Closed Shop Bill

(Continued From Page 1) Officially House Bill No. 229, which I have been informed is coming before the General Assembly soon.

The resolution was passed at the regular weekly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union February 6th and is as follows:

"Be it resolved, That Charlotte Central Labor Union and its affiliated American Federation of Labor Unions hereby vigorously condemn and brands as absolutely un-American House Bill 229 which is to come before the 1947 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, or any other proposed anti-closed shop measure which may be introduced later, and

"Be It Resolved, That it is the sense of Charlotte Central Labor Union that there is absolutely no need for such a law in North Carolina, due to the past record of employer-employee relations in which differences have been settled through genuine collective bargaining, and

"Be It Resolved, That Governor Gregg Cherry in his message to the opening session of the General Assembly said that labor-management relations in North Carolina during the past have been very harmonious, which speaks highly favorable for labor's ability to settle its problems with its employers, thereby making a great contribution to the nation as a whole, and

"Be It Further Resolved, That the Mecklenburg Senator and members of the House of Representatives be notified at once of Charlotte Central Labor Union's action, and that they each be furnished with a copy of this resolution."

I feel certain that Mecklenburg county's delegation will not be stampeded into voting favorably for any anti-closed shop measure, in view of the splendid labor-management relations which have always existed in North Carolina. Such a law on the statute books would reflect unfavorably upon the State until it were nullified and it is our sincere belief that such a law would have a tendency to create unfavorable labor conditions instead of the harmonious conditions that now exist.

Therefore, we petition you as our representatives to oppose all ill-designed, proposed bills that may promote bad relations instead of the good.

(Signed) STERLING L. HICKS, President Charlotte Central Labor Union.

In another action Charlotte Labor Union unanimously passed a motion authorizing President Hicks, Vice President Scoggins and Dan Anderson to appear before the Labor Committee in Raleigh when this proposed bill comes up for a hearing.

The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of these actions to each affiliated American Fed-

eration of Labor Union in Charlotte and surrounding territory. Routine matters were acted upon and reports from local unions were heard.

The Thursday night meeting was one of the best attended sessions of CLU in several weeks and President Hicks thanked those present for the splendid enthusiasm displayed and the large attendance.

A communication was read from the speakers' bureau of the Charlotte Chapter of the American Red Cross asking for a date that a speaker could be sent to appear before Charlotte Labor. The matter was turned over to former President J. J. Thomas and he was instructed to co-operate with the Red Cross in working out a suitable time for its representative to appear before the CLU.

Send in your renewal to The Labor Journal today!

Attend your Union meeting!

N. Y. Anti-Closed Shop Gets A Cool Reception

Albany, N. Y.—Legislation to prohibit the closed shop has been introduced in the State Assembly here by Representative Frederic H. Bontecou, Poughkeepsie Republican, and was disavowed immediately by Governor Thomas E. Dewey and other Republican leaders.

Indications were that the measure would be overwhelmingly defeated.

Should New York State accept such a bill it would be the 13th State to have passed legislation either banning or imposing sharp limitations on the closed shop. Definite bans have been invoked by Arizona, Nebraska, South Dakota, Florida, and Virginia, and limitations have been approved in Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Texas, Wisconsin and Arkansas.

Leaders of the State Federation of Labor were sharp in their condemnation of the new bill. Harold Hanover, secretary of the State AFL group charged Bontecou was merely a pawn in the hands of enemies of labor, and added:

"The Federation of Labor regarded Senator Bontecou as friendly toward the programs of labor, and in 1946, at the solicitation of his constituents, who are members of the Federation, we wrote a letter of approval of his record on measures favored by the AFL unions."

The New York State Federation of Labor represents a membership of 1,600,000 — the largest membership in any State AFL group.

A spokesman for Governor Dewey, in the absence of the governor, took pains to point out to newspapermen that Dewey was not consulted on the anti-closed shop bill and knew nothing of it. It was the Senator's bill, and his alone, the spokesman said, and not a measure introduced with the consent or knowledge of the governor.

Thomas A. Murray, president of the State Federation of Labor, declared:

"Senator Bontecou had evidently not read the governor's message to the legislature in which the governor was proud of the relations existing in this State between management and labor, and in which the governor also declared that the labor relations' machinery employed in this State was second to that of none other in the nation."

"I am convinced that the Senator is not capable of introducing legislation of this type without the aid of enemies of labor, who

20,000 ON AIR NETWORKS BENEFIT BY CONTRACTS

(Continued From Page 1)

"One of the new provisions is the appointment of an AFRA-Management committee, to be composed of representatives from the four national networks and from AFRA, which will meet during the coming months to consider all matters of difference between the industry and the union with a view to arriving at recommendations which shall be submitted to the industry and AFRA on matters of principle looking toward amicable settlement of all differences."

The decision to put "representatives from the four national networks" on the committee follows the refusal of the National Association of Broadcasters, the industry-wide trade organization in broadcasting, to commit itself to any joint action with the union.

The new contract affecting both commercial and sustaining programs covers actors, singers, announcers and sound effects men on the radio. The signatories to the union agreement are the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System, the American Broadcasting Company and the Mutual Broadcasting System.

TWO WESTERN UAW UNIONS REPORT IMPORTANT GAINS

Milwaukee, Wis.—An announcement has been made of many new gains by units of Chicago Amalgamated Local 286 AUW-AFL. Members of the Illinois Local unit have been awarded a 10-cent general increase, a closed shop, check-off, six paid holidays, and standard overtime and vacation clauses.

A second general wage increase in six months was also obtained by the Dixie Company workers, another Local 286 unit. This raise was accompanied by an improved merit system permitting even higher earnings.

NASHVILLE UNIONS GAIN

Nashville, Tenn.—A gain of 622 new members in 10 local unions was reported here for December. Leaders of other labor groups, equally resentful, sharply attacked Bontecou for his anti-labor views and asserted that his proposals, if they could succeed, would "turn the clock back to the 18th century."

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