

# City, State Officials Accused Of Forcing Strikes Of Teachers

Educational Boards and Legislatures Charged With Compelling Teachers To Force Show-down On Wages Now.

Chicago, Ill.—Charges that the strike of Buffalo school teachers was forced by the attitude of the Buffalo School Board and the New York State Legislature were contained in the statement issued by Irvin R. Kuenzli, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers.

Mr. Kuenzli cited the situation in Buffalo as a typical example of issues confronting teachers in every part of the Nation, despite

reluctance of teachers associated with the American Federation of Labor to halt educational activities. The teachers' strike in Buffalo was not inaugurated by the American Federation of Labor, but drew from Mr. Kuenzli an observation that conditions there were only a reflection of the sorry plight of American teachers throughout the country.

"It is a deplorable fact in American education that in many cities and towns throughout the country boards of education are making it extremely difficult for the AFL to maintain its no-strike policy," he said.

"It also is a sad commentary on American education that in the richest nation in the world, the working conditions of teachers have fallen so low that to maintain a no-strike policy 100 per cent is almost impossible."

Discussing the general teacher situation throughout the country, Mr. Kuenzli said:

"While the teachers' strike in Buffalo was not authorized by the American Federation of Teachers, our hearts go out to teachers who face deplorable working conditions which force them to violate national policy. They do this only as a last resort.

"Under such conditions as confront them, the school administrations and boards of education are responsible for the strike rather than the teachers.

"It is time the boards of education adopt a no-strike policy by paying teachers decent wages so that they will not be compelled to strike.

"A primary responsibility of boards of education is to work out such a program of school financing that teachers may be paid salaries commensurate with their costly university training, their highly skilled work and their value to their community.

"Failure of boards of education to provide adequate salaries for teachers is a fundamental failure of a public agency, and any board which forces teachers to take such drastic action as to strike is seriously negligent of a public trust.

"Frankly, we wonder what is seriously negligent of a public trust.

"Frankly, we wonder what is the future of a nation which spends eight times as much on three luxuries—liquor, tobacco and horse-racing—as it spends on education, and then constantly refuses to pay adequate salaries for the education of its children. Buffalo is one of the richest cities in one of the richest States in the Nation, and yet we find public school teachers compelled to strike for an adequate living wage.

"Teachers in New York State, as in many other States, are caught between restrictive legislation at both local and State

## SENATE VOTES TO CLOSE OPA, OTHER WAR CONTROL UNITS

Washington, D. C.—Brushing aside all protests, the Senate voted, 58-29, to ring down the curtain on OPA and other wartime control agencies June 30.

Earlier, a Senate Banking Subcommittee voted 3-2 against a measure to authorize a general 10 per cent boost in rents. Under this bill rent controls would be taken from OPA and left to the courts to enforce.

The decision to send OPA to the graveyard of Government wartime agencies took the form of a stipulation in a \$180,000,000 deficiency appropriation for various Government bureaus.

The stipulation marked for death the Office of Temporary Controls and its constituent agencies. These agencies include the remnants, not only of OPA, but of the Civilian Production Administration which wielded enormous priority powers during the war, and the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

The appropriation bill passed by the Senate now goes back to the House for action on amendments.

Seventeen million dollars was voted to enable OPA to wind up its duties, which now consist mainly of enforcing controls over rents, sugar and rice. That amount is not enough, said Senator Lucas. He said it meant the end of rent control by April 30. But Senator Taft told the Senate that Congress would be able to set up new control machinery well ahead of April 30.

Senator Cordon declared OPA would have ample funds to carry on and estimated it would have \$10,000,000 more than the amount needed to pay its final going-out-of-business expenses.

A proposal by Senator Hayden, to increase funds for the Civilian Production Administration by \$1,200,000, was defeated on a voice vote.

### MICHAEL FLYNN DIES; AIDE FOR 35 UNIONS

Washington, D. C.—Michael J. Flynn, 62 executive secretary and treasurer of America's Wage Earners' Protective Conference for 19 years, died here of injuries suffered in a fall on an icy street.

A native of Boston, he held his post with Protective Conference since the tariff group's organization in 1928.

As executive secretary of the conference, composed of 35 labor organizations interested in tariffs protecting workers against cheap foreign labor competition, Mr. Flynn testified in congressional hearings and reported on tariff legislation to the organizations.

Prior to his coming to Washington Mr. Flynn was a newspaperman in Boston.

levels so that additional funds are not immediately available to grant salary increases which, however, are justly deserved.

"The State Legislature has a large part of the responsibility for the strikes because of existing laws which do not provide adequate State aid and at the same time do not permit local communities to raise sufficient funds to pay adequate salaries to teachers and to provide adequate educational facilities. Thus, teachers are caught between Scylla, on one hand, and Charybdis on the other.

"In a large sense, the teachers of the Nation are in part responsible for the sad plight of the Nation's schools. The teachers, over the years, have not been organized in sufficient strength to demand adequate salaries and to protect the schools. The school children have paid a heavy price for the lack of organization on the part of their teachers.

"At the beginning of World War II, the American Federation of Labor issued an over-all educational program for which affiliated unions were urged to press during the war period. This program anticipated the crisis which now faces American education and which advocated better salaries, tenure of office and retirement provisions. Had the teachers of the Nation been adequately organized to carry out this program the present crisis would not have developed, and the teachers of Buffalo, St. Paul and other cities would never have been compelled to resort to strikes."

## GREEN RENEWS PLEA TO BRITAIN TO GIVE JEWS HOMELAND IN PALESTINE

New York City.—AFL President William Green, at a testimonial dinner given in his honor by the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training, reiterated his fervent appeal to Great Britain to fulfill its pledge in the Balfour Declaration and establish a Jewish National Homeland in Palestine.

Deploring the plight of millions of displaced people in war-torn Europe, and extolling the determined spirit of the Jews to pursue their fight for an international refuge, Mr. Green sharply criticized the British proposal to turn over the trusteeship of Palestine to the United Nations.

"In attempting to drop the entire Palestine question into other hands," he told the guests at the testimonial dinner, "Britain is seeking to evade her inescapable responsibilities." The United Nations Organization, he pointed out, is not bound by such pledges as were made by the Balfour Declaration.

Reviewing the sorry plight of the millions of displaced persons, persecuted by Hitler and others before and during the war, he declared, on behalf of the 7,500,000 members of the AFL, that the time has come when Britain should "rise to the heights of statesmanship and render justice to a people to whom justice has long been denied."

"By placing principle above expediency," he said, "by remaining steadfastly true to the highest traditions of freedom, democracy and justice, Britain can and will gain far more in character and lasting respect with all the freedom-loving people of the world than she can possibly lose in temporary diplomatic maneuvers.

"If Great Britain will only do what her conscience and honor require her to do and establish Palestine as a homeland for the Jews, with unrestricted immigration, she can count upon the United States and the other free nations of the world to back her up in any eventualities. Public opinion will once again be on her side and public faith in the devotion of free government to the cause of justice will be restored."

**AFL WORKERS VICTORIOUS**  
Kenner, La.—An overwhelming victory was registered at Great Southern Box Co. here by AFL members.

## DETROIT MAILERS GRANTED SUBSTANTIAL PAY RAISE

Detroit, Mich.—A new weekly scale for Detroit Mailers Union 40 (AFL), has been worked out granting workers on the 37 1-2 hour day shift \$77.50, for a 35-hour afternoon shift \$79.50, and for the midnight shift, 35 hours, an \$83.50.

This is a raise of over 29 cents an hour for day men and over 33 cents for the other classified workers. The new contract is



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