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Broader National Health Is Aim of Liberal Senators

Washington, D. C. — A broad national health insurance bill has been drafted by a liberal group of Senators, including Wagner of New York, Murray of Montana, and McGrath of Rhode Island, for early consideration at the current session.

The measure is almost identical with the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill of 1946 but contains a number of important improvements incorporated at the specific request of the American Federation of Labor.

Among these are decentralization of administration, providing that the operation of the plan will be through State and local areas with a minimum of co-ordination from Washington. The bill further makes explicit provisions for continuation of voluntary health plans such as those developed in collective bargaining agreements by labor unions. Voluntary plans that meet the requirements of providing good medical care will continue to operate as service agencies within the over-all plan. The new bill, like the old, provides protection to practically all wage earners excepting those under the Railroad retirement act.

Under this bill all needed preventive, diagnostic and curative services by a family physician or the patients' choice and services of specialties when required; laboratory and x-ray services; and other special services as required will be available to workers and members of their families. Dental, home nursing and other auxiliary services will be available depending on the adequacy of personnel.

The National Health Insurance and Public Health Bill, as the new measure is called, guarantees full participation in policy matters by those who receive and pay for medical care. National, State and local policy committees are provided in the bill with the requirement that a majority be composed of representatives of peoples organizations. Labor unions would be assured of full participation in the administration of the plan. Purely professional and technical matters are left, as they should be, in the hands of professionally trained personnel. The bill further provides aid to the State for the expansion and improvement of public health services.

Hearings are scheduled to begin before a subcommittee of the Senate Education and Labor Committee May 19. These hearings will prove a battleground, in view of the fact that the bill introduced earlier by Senators Taft, Ball, Smith and Donnell will be considered at the same time. This bill proposes to make grants available from the Federal Treasury to the State health agencies to enable them to pay the cost of medical care to the needy persons and their dependents. It is based on the charity principle and to be eligible for its benefits persons would have to be certified as "medically indigent" by some welfare agency. Administrative control of this program is lodged in the hands of the medical societies.

It is expected that officers of many national and international unions and State Federations of Labor will testify against the vicious Taft bill and in favor of health insurance at the hearings.

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT EXPECTED TO INCREASE

San Francisco, Calif.—The April issue of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Monthly Labor Review reveals the following information: The labor force on the entire West Coast is expected to increase from 4,300,000 in 1940 to a total in the neighborhood of 5,800,000 in 1950, a 36 per cent expansion. The total civilian employment in the state at its wartime peak was 3,712,000 in June, 1944. The postwar low was reached in February, 1946, with 3,327,000 in civilian employment. It then climbed steadily to a seasonal high of 3,766,000 in September, 1946, and in December, 1946, stood at 3,648,000.

600,000 TEACHERS QUIT

Six hundred thousands teachers have quit the nation's classrooms in the last seven years for better-paying jobs, the American Federation of Teachers (AFL) estimates.

MISS FRANCIS AND WANAMAKER STARRER ON RADIO SHOW TO AID LABOR CAUSE

New York City—With Ariene Francis and Sam Wanamaker in leading roles, the Entertainment Union's Committee, in co-operation with the AFL campaign against the Hartley-Taft anti-labor bills, presented the second of its daytime radio serials placing before the nation a message from its tolling millions on May 9.

Under the title of the well known serial: "The Best Things In Life," the broadcast was carried over the entire ABS National network. It is a drama of American family life, authored by William Morwood and directed by Anton M. Leader, both top-ranking radio figures.

Miss Francis is a popular actress on the legitimate stage and has been a mistress of ceremonies on radio programs, notably "Blind Date" and "What's My Name." Sam Wanamaker is the young actor who won plaudits for his brilliant performance as leading man for Ingrid Bergman in "Joan of Lorraine."

This presentation is in line with the AFL's Entertainment Union's Committee pledge to recruit the most popular stars of stage, screen, radio and the musical world in its drive to educate the American public on conditions which will follow if anti-labor legislation such as is pending in Congress is approved. The finest talent in the entertainment world has volunteered its services to bring this message to the American people. In addition, members of the Radio Writers Guild of the Authors League of America are writing the scripts. All participants in the programs are being paid for their services.

AFL RADIO MUSICIANS GET RAISES PUSHING WEEKLY SCALE HIGH AS \$191

New York City.—Musicians employed in major stations of the four principal radio networks here will receive wage increases ranging from 16 to 28 per cent under the terms of a contract reached by representatives of the networks and Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL).

Staff musicians on sustaining and commercial programs who formerly received from \$126 to \$165 a week will get \$151 to \$191 under the new scale. All these musicians work a five-day week, with some playing four hours out of eight each day and others playing five hours out of eight.

For musicians employed in individual programs the rehearsal rate is raised from \$6 to \$7.50. Pay-for-half-hour broadcasts will go up from \$14 to \$19 and for one-hour programs from \$18 to \$23. All the wage increases are retroactive to February 2, when the old contract expired.

Richard McCann, president of the local, and Charles Iucci, its secretary, announced that the agreement provided for the first time in network broadcasting ex-

tra pay for musicians who played more than one instrument. A payment of \$3 is made for the first "double" and \$2 more for each additional instrument played, according to the union leaders.

A demand for vacations was dropped by the union after the networks had refused to grant it.

The agreement affects about 300 staff musicians employed at stations WNBC, WJZ, WCBS and WOR. In addition, several thousand musicians will benefit from the higher scale for individual broadcasts, according to the union.

Another contract on which agreement was reached last night will give pay increases averaging about 9.5 per cent to 460 technicians and engineers employed by the National and American Broadcasting Companies in this city, Chicago, Washington, Cleveland, Denver, San Francisco and Hollywood.

ILGWU PRESENTS \$25,000 CHECK FOR INFIRMARY

New York City.—David Dubinsky, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (AFL), and Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, presented a check for \$25,000 to Mrs. Harold E. Talbott, vice-president of the New York Infirmary, toward the \$50,000,000 fund for a new building for the hospital. Mrs. Talbott accepted the check in Mr. Dubinsky's office at union headquarters.

"We are a union with many women members," Mr. Dubinsky said, "and it seemed that we had an obligation to encourage an institution whose staff is women, and where the patients are chiefly women. I hope the new hospital will be able to take care of our needy members. They may not be needy now, but it is always possible for some one to have bad luck."

Send in your subscription to the Labor Journal today!

Uncle Sam Says



What a turkey, mom! So you want your Uncle Sam to slice off a thick chunk of white meat for you, son. What a Thanksgiving feast! So you want the Wishing-bone, Mary! Lots of folks will be making a silent wish on this great holiday. I'd like to make an open wish. I wish for all my nieces and nephews, young and old, long life, health, happiness and good fortune. You can help make my wish come true by building a strong financial foundation of U. S. Savings Bonds for your home and every home. Buy your extra Savings Bond now! U. S. Treasury Department

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THE MARCH OF LABOR

IN THE PROSPEROUS YEARS BEFORE 1929 THE SOUTHERN FARMER RECEIVED AN AVERAGE GROSS ANNUAL INCOME OF \$186—WHILE THE FARMERS IN THE NORTH AND WEST AVERAGED \$528
THE U.S. CONCILIATION SERVICE SETTLED 1,408 LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES IN JUNE, 1945—1,095 OF WHICH WERE ADJUSTED BEFORE THEY REACHED THE STOPPAGE STAGE.
IN TOKYO, THE CONGRESS OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS, REPRESENTING 1,600,000 WORKERS, HELD ITS FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER, 1946. THE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED AIMS AT THE 40-HOUR WEEK, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, AND THE ELIMINATION OF "COLONIAL" CONDITIONS.

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