

WIRE or WRITE to
Your Congressmen in
Protest Against All
ANTI-LABOR Bills!

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GREEN ASKS FOR VETO OF TAFT-HARTLEY ACT Meany Charges Republican Party Platform Violated RAILWAY CLERKS OPPOSE ANTI-LABOR BILL

SEES ONLY CONFUSION AND NEW STRIFE IF PENDING PROPOSALS BECOME LAW

Washington, D. C.—In one of the most sharply-worded attacks upon the pending Taft-Hartley anti-labor bill, George M. Harrison, President of the Railway Clerks Union and a Vice President of the AFL served formal notice on Congress that railroad employes are vigorously opposed to the slave labor legislation.

Mr. Harrison asserted that both the Taft and Hartley slave labor programs were especially designed to weaken the working people of the United States, and expressed a deep conviction that such legislation could result only in fresh confusion and stir new industrial strife.

Hitting the proposed legislation as a direct attack on labor in what he regarded as a "surface manifestation" of labor's foes' objectives, Mr. Harrison said that "the real end that the sponsors of the Taft-Hartley Bill seek is a return to the so-called 'good old days' of the economic royalists."

"This is what American monopoly sought and hoped for at the last election and this is what the professional political representatives of reaction proposed to deliver," he declared.

Continuing, Mr. Harrison said:

"The political reactionaries are out to drain the American people of their resources in whatever form they exist—the savings and earnings of consumers everywhere, of workers, salaried employes, the corner grocer and the small farmer.

"The reactionaries are out to consolidate big business monopoly in their domination over the economic, social and political lives of the people. They are out to raise prices in the interest of monopoly by every expedient possible to push profits up to such levels that an economic collapse will become inevitable.

"The monopoly interests represented in Congress by reactionary Republicans with the aid of some stooges from among the southern Democrats, are concentrating their first attacks against labor. If they can weaken the labor movement, they thus weaken the ability of working men and women to resist an employer onslaught against wages and working conditions. If the unions can be destroyed, wages can be slashed, and if the unions are destroyed, wages will be slashed.

"Inordinate profits for the greedy, subsistence wages for the people who work—this is the first goal in the drive against labor. The final purpose is the destruction of all social gains which the American people have achieved in the last fifteen years—in the years of dynamic resurgence based on the principles of social welfare.

"The program of Republican reaction is a conspiracy against the American people.

"Make no mistake about it. The Hartley-Taft anti-labor bills are not all that is in store for us. They are only the beginning of reaction. If this reaction is permitted to crystallize to the point of initial success by the enactment of those bills, then reaction will be in the saddle.

"The first consequence will be Harding 'normalcy'—a price level that will exhaust the economy and a level of wages so slashed that a collapse will come. If this comes we will have the basic conditions for a large-scale depression.

"We are at the crossroads in our destiny. The choice so far as Republican reaction gives us a choice, is either those fundamental freedoms which our history shows are the only basis for advancing the welfare of the American people, or the black nightmare of American fascism or communism.

"The sponsors of the Taft-Hartley bill are trying to make

you believe that working people—your friends and neighbors—the people who do the work and make the wheels of industry go 'round—have become so dangerous and powerful that they must be curbed, regimented and enslaved.

"It is indeed a sorry and deplorable picture that the sponsors of this legislation have drawn of free American workers. Do not forget that the real sponsors of the Taft-Hartley bill are the most reactionary interests of America.

"They include the so-called Committee for Constitutional Government, which cloaks its selfish objectives with a pious name. This committee waged unremitting warfare against the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and is still trying to tear down the great body of social justice reforms which he established. This committee hired high-pressure propagandists to coin 'hate' slogans against labor and to pin the charge of 'monopoly' against labor unions. What a mockery! To make such an accusation against labor organizations dedicated to the promotion of the greatest good for the greatest number! And when the charge comes from a group intent upon preserving big business monopoly for the benefit of the few and against the interests of the American people as a whole, it begins to look as though the sponsors of this legislation are adopting Hitler's propaganda technique—the Big Lie.

"Even more prominent among the supporters of the Taft-Hartley bill is the National Association of Manufacturers—better known as the NAM. The NAM, which is dominated by a tight little group of reactionary industrial barons, has spent much money for propaganda to curb unions and to destroy labor's gains. This is the same organization that promised the American people that prices would come down if only the OPA was killed—and then proceeded to make a killing at the expense of every one of us. This is the same organization—the NAM—that has consistently opposed every forward and progressive step for the advancement of human rights—from the Child Labor Amendment to Social Security.

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Employers Strike At The Taft Hartley Bill

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
CITE 27 YEARS' PEACE
WITH AFL WORKERS

By Robert W. McChesney, President of the National Electrical Contractors Association

Our free enterprise system thrives best when there is balance between the economic factors of supply and demand. We call this healthful condition "stability."

We, therefore, are vitally concerned with the stability of labor. We are acutely sensitive to factors and conditions that affect the stability of labor. For if labor loses any considerable degree of stability we suffer, and what hurts us in the electrical contracting industry has a great impact upon electrical living and electrified production—consequently upon the public.

For almost 30 years, my organization, the National Electrical Contractors Association, has cooperated with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the AFL. In the pulsating economic readjustments that followed World War I—very much similar to those of today—far-sighted men in the electrical contracting industry—both employer and employe—looked upon the chaotic conditions of the time. These practical men forged an instrument out of their hard experience in industry—experience that had taught them that strikes were not the way to settle labor disputes. This instrumentality was the Council on Industrial Relations for the Electrical Contracting Industry. It was and it is today a system of voluntary arbitration, functioning under the mandate of collective bargaining agreements, as a court of justice for employer and employe alike. Where for the past 27 years (Continued on Page 4)

LABOR ARBITER WARNS
PUNITIVE LEGISLATION
IS WRONG APPROACH

By Harry Uviller, Impartial Chairman and Administrator of the Dress Industry

After thirty years' experience in industries, during which I have handled thousands of cases as a representative of employers and passed upon thousands of cases as an umpire, I am convinced that the proposed Taft-Hartley legislation will not reduce industrial strife nor result in stabilizing management and labor relations.

On the contrary, such legislation will introduce irritating factors and will keep the parties directly concerned in a constant state of mobilization, with more numerous and more bitter individual contests than would have occurred without the legislation.

As the untimely, complete elimination of the OPA resulted in great inequities in many instances and subjected our economy to serious danger, so will penalization or weakening of one of the parties to the process of collective bargaining result in dangers to some, hardships for most and a strain on our social system. The Taft-Hartley Bill will accomplish that.

The proposed legislation does not remove the causes for strife nor does it attempt to strengthen or reinforce the institution of collective bargaining. It makes a general attack, which will introduce competition on labor standards within the shop, among plants and between unions, despite the fact that stability and fair competition in industry are in a great measure dependent upon equalized, comparable labor standards.

Our belief that fair competition is an essential part of our free (Please Turn To Page 4)

URGES AFL STATE GROUPS TO ASSIST HANDICAPPED

A strong plea that all State Federations of Labor exert every effort to obtain establishment of special State departments for promotion of work opportunities for the physically handicapped was made by AFL President William Green in a message to all State groups.

The letter pointed out the deep interest the American Federation of Labor has shown over a long period of years in the problem of training and placing physically-handicapped persons, and its full co-operation with programs of this nature established by the Federal and many State governments, Mr. Green added:

"The American Federation of Labor co-operated fully with the Federal and State employment agencies in the achievement of this purpose. During the war period the employment service was administered by the Federal Government. Now the employment service has been returned to the States. For that reason I earnestly request that the officers of your State Federation of Labor confer with those in charge of the State employment service and arrange to co-operate and work with said agency fully and completely in all the efforts put forth to secure job placements for the physically handicapped.

"I suggests that efforts be put forth to create a department in the State employment service for the purpose of specializing in the promotion of work opportunities for those who are physically handicapped. This department in each State would devote its time and effort exclusively toward the creation of job placements for the physically handicapped.

"I respectfully request and urge that the officers of all State Federations of Labor confer with representatives of the employment service in each State requesting them to create a department within the State employment service, the objective of which will be to secure job placements for the physically handicapped.

"This would be a humane and noble purpose, the achievement of which should be sought earnestly by the officers and members of all State Federations of Labor.

SECRETARY OF A. F. L.
CHALLENGES POSITION
OF G. O. P. LABOR FOES

Washington, D. C.—The attempt of Big Business and its Republican Congressional collaborators to sell the idea of "capital, government domination and control, as a means of industrial peace, is insulting to the intelligence of every American worker."

This was the firm declaration of A. F. L. Secretary-Treasurer George Meany in a discussion on pending anti-labor legislation in a nationwide address over the facilities of the National Broadcasting company, in which he formally challenged assertions of Republican leaders that punitive labor legislation was a Republican Party mandate.

"Such a mandate has never been handed to the Republicans in our Congress," Mr. Meany asserted.

Analyzing the anti-labor legislation, which is in conference at this time, Mr. Meany told the workers of America to disregard declarations of Senator Taft of Ohio and Representative Hartley, co-authors of the measure, that the Republican victories of last November constituted an order to crack down on unions and to place the entire organized labor movement in a straitjacket of punitive and restrictive legislation.

"We are told by the official spokesman of the Republican Party in both Houses," Meany said, "that the prohibitions and restrictions on trade unions in the Taft-Hartley bills are in complete harmony with the labor policy of the Republican Party. These premises are completely false."

"Even a casual examination of the record gives the lie to any contention made that the Taft-Hartley NAM program of repression and restriction against labor represents the official policy of the Republican Party," Mr. Meany declared.

"Did Senator Taft, or any other responsible spokesman for the Republican party, tell the voters that the Republican leadership in the Senate would write anti-labor laws along lines suggested by employers?" he asked.

"Senator Taft has admitted that his bill contains three-quarters of the matters strenuously pressed upon him by employers. He has refused to divulge the names of these employers.

"But I cannot recall the American voters being told prior to last November's election that employers were going to be allowed to dictate legislation to control the lives of workers. If there was a mandate to enact legislation such as that proposed by the Taft-Hartley program, it must have been a secret mandate. I am sure the great mass of the voters who went to the polls last election know nothing of any such mandate.

"There is evidence that the vote last year of the American electorate was a protest against the very type of regimentation and control which the Taft-Hartley Bill now seeks to impose on labor. It was a protest against the failure of the Administration and Congress to provide adequate (Continued on Page 4)

DECLARES PENDING SLAVE-LABOR LEGISLATION COMPLETELY REPUDIATES RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN TRUMAN'S JANUARY MESSAGE

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green called on President Truman to veto to Taft-Hartley slave labor bill.

Speaking over the Mutual network, Mr. Green declared that the sponsors of this legislation completely ignored the advice of the President to refrain from passage of punitive and vindictive measures and flouted the Chief Executive on every point Mr. Truman made in his address to the opening session in January.

Citing three major reasons why the President should veto the Taft-Hartley Bill, Mr. Green asserted:

"1. It is against the public interest because it would throw labor-industrial relations into chaos and result in depressing the American standard of living.

"2. The Taft-Hartley Bill violates the basic freedoms of American workers and seeks to destroy the security and effectiveness of their unions.

"3. The measure repudiates and flouts the President's own recommendations to Congress."

Analyzing the Taft Hartley Bill in detail, Mr. Green showed quite clearly how it differed with the position taken by the President in his message.

"Mr. Truman told Congress," the labor leader declared, "that 'during the last decade and a half we have established a national labor policy in this country based upon free collective bargaining as the process for determining wages and working conditions. It should continue to be the national policy.'"

But this policy, as set forth in the National Labor Relations Act, "the magna carta of labor," would be "virtually repealed by the Hartley Bill, and the Taft Bill admittedly rewrites it from beginning to end and distorts its meaning," Mr. Green said.

On the issue of President Truman's caution against approval of punitive and vindictive legislation, Mr. Green declared that the White House was completely ignored.

"The Taft-Hartley bill is sweepingly punitive," he said. "One of the sponsors, Congressman Hartley, asserted on the House floor it was intended to break unions down to the local level. Senator Taft said in a public address that three-quarters of the provisions were pressed on Congress by employers.

"The President said in his message that there should be no blanket prohibition against boycotts, but both the Taft and Hartley bills do contain blanket prohibitions against boycotts.

"Finally, President Truman urged Congress in his message to institute a fact-finding investigation into the underlying causes of labor-management disputes before trying to legislate upon them. This Congress flatly refused to do, as it refused time and again last year.

"This astonishing fear of the facts shown by the proponents of anti-labor legislation betrays the entire weakness of their case. Labor does not fear a fair and impartial examination of the facts about the underlying causes of labor-management disputes. We would welcome such a fact-finding investigation. We do not believe it would be possible for Congress to adopt any intelligent and practical legislation dealing with such important problems without first determining the facts.

"I have cited enough outright conflicts between President Truman's recommendations and the Taft-Hartley program to make it evident that the legislation repudiates the basic policies laid down by the Chief Executive. But I would like to call attention to

the official policy of the Republican Party, as approved at the last National Convention, which asserted the Republican Party was 'the historical champion of free labor.' Does that sound like the Taft-Hartley Bill?"

Mr. Green summed up American labor's indictment of the Taft-Hartley Bill in five points, which declared it would increase industrial strife, damage the national economy by weakening labor and lowering the American standard of living, imperil the freedom of American workers, outlaw the closed shop and create a hate philosophy, directed against workers "and give comfort to those who wish to divide this Nation against itself and promote class warfare in the United States."

"For these reasons," Mr. Green concluded, "for the best interests of our country, and in justice to the principles which he has repeatedly enunciated and long upheld, the workers of America confidently expect and strongly urge President Truman to veto the Taft-Hartley Bill."

MORTGAGE APPEALS TO FHA AT RECORD HIGH IN APRIL

Washington, D. C.—Setting a record, applications for FHA mortgage insurance climbed to 52,950 dwelling units during April, Commissioner Raymond M. Foley said. This is a new post-war record and indicates continued active housing construction in the next several weeks, he explained, as actual construction usually follows the applications within a fairly short period.

Of the new-home applications received during April by FHA field offices, 14,313 units were to be in multi-family rental housing projects. The others were to be houses for one to four families.

During the first four months of this year, applications on multi-family rental housing projects covered 38,298 new dwelling units, close to a third of the total of 116,095 new units of all types to be financed through these applications under the FHA program.

CLERKS SIGN CONTRACT

Oswego, N. Y.—Office Employees International Union (AFL) members here have been awarded a new contract with employees of the Pierce Butler Radiator Corp. Wage increases ranging up to 12 cents an hour and retroactive to Oct. 16, 1944, have been granted all office employes, and an eight-hour day, 40-hour week, time-and-a-half for Saturday work and double-time for Sundays, are new features of the contract.