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# LABOR BILL IS NOW LAW

## AFL CHIEF PREDICTS POLITICAL DEFEAT OF SPONSORS

Washington, D. C.—The Taft-Hartley Act, acknowledged to be the most vicious anti-labor club in modern American history, became the law of the land when the Senate voted to override President Truman's veto by 68 to 25.

AFL President William Green immediately announced that a drive will be launched for the prompt repeal of the law.

Warning of the grave consequences of this repressive legislation, Mr. Green predicted it will prove such a boomerang, that its sponsors and supporters "will be voted out of office by the American people next year."

Labor's last hopes of heading off the obnoxious legislation were dashed when the final test came up in the Senate. A combination of reactionary Republicans and southern Democrats, ignoring President Truman's fervent pleas for the defeat of the measure, rolled up a safe margin of six more than the two-thirds majority required. Previously the House of Representatives had voted to override by an almost four to one margin.

The result was in doubt up to the last minute as a dozen key Senators declined to commit themselves in advance. In an effort to sway them, President Truman sent an emergency appeal to Senate Minority Leader Barkley, in which he said:

"I feel so strongly about the labor bill which the Senate will vote on this afternoon that I wish to reaffirm my sincere belief that it will do serious harm to our country.

"This is a critical period in our history and any measure which will adversely affect our national unity will render a distinct disservice not only to this nation but to the world.

"I want you to know that such would be the result if the veto of this bill should be overridden.

"I want you to know you have my unqualified support, and it is my fervent hope for the good of the country, that you and your colleagues will be successful in your efforts to keep this bill from becoming law."

In the face of this message from the President of the United States and the head of their party, twenty Democratic Senators—every one of them from the South—voted along with forty-eight Republicans to override. Only three Republicans joined twenty-two Democrats in voting to sustain the veto.

Two major portions of the bill—the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act and the creation of a new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to replace the existing U. S. Conciliation Service—will not go into effect until sixty days. The rest of the Taft-Hartley Act becomes effective immediately.

Among these provisions are:

1. Emergency strikes. Strikes or threatened strikes which are held to endanger the national health or safety may be banned by court injunctions for a period of eighty days during which a board of inquiry will investigate the dispute and the workers will be polled on acceptance of the employer's "last offer" for settlement.

2. Restrictions on administration of health and welfare funds and regulations governing the checkoff.
3. Banning of strikes by Government workers.

4. Appointment of a Congressional Committee, ostensibly to study the causes of labor-management disputes and to recommend new legislation, but actually to serve as a Congressional "watchdog" on the administration

of the new law and to assure its harsh enforcement.

The latter point was made evident when Senator Taft indicated that his preference for the chairmanship of the committee would be Senator Ball, who consistently advocated even tougher amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act.

A further Congressional check-rein is provided in the expansion of the National Labor Relations Board by the appointment of two additional members. These appointees must be confirmed by the Senate and the Taft-controlled majority has served notice that it will not confirm anyone who does not meet its reactionary standards.

## GREEN SUPPORTS IVES-CHAVEZ ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL

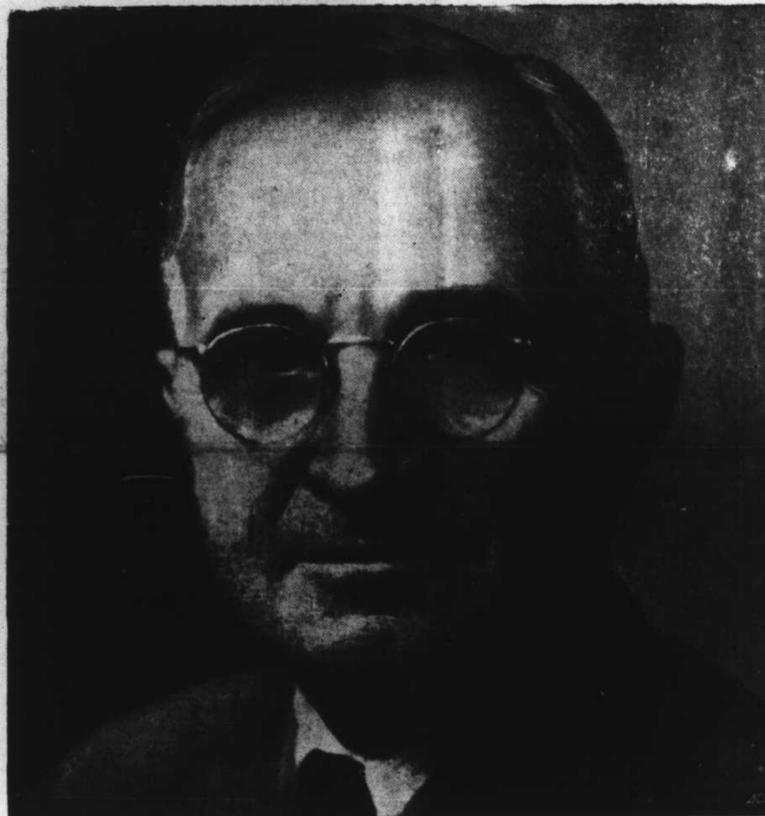
Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, testifying before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, gave strong support to the Ives-Chavez Bill to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry.

Declaring that discrimination is subversive to the true practice of democracy in a free society, Mr. Green said:

"We consider the enactment of this measure a matter for far reaching national, and indeed international importance. America's ideals of freedom and democracy are today pitted against worldwide influences of dictatorial oppression. The communist dictatorship, which offers no freedom and no opportunity to anyone, attempts to appeal to oppressed minorities. This the Congress must recognize clearly and realistically.

"Unity among the people who make up our great nation, means more to our strength than military weapons. Even with the most powerful of weapons, once divided, our people will be powerless against a subtle subversive attack upon our way of life and our institutions. It is the clear duty of the Congress to assure the great and numerous minorities among us that the whole people of the United States stand indivisibly in their purpose to make real equal opportunity for all to enjoy the full rights of their labor and through their productive contribution to earn equally their full share in the American standard of modern living."

## Calls For Labor-Management To Assist In Labor Law Enforcement



President Harry S. Truman

Washington, June 26.—President Truman called on labor and management today to comply with the Taft-Hartley labor act and promised to administer it as fairly and effectively as he can.

The President pledged himself to do all in his power to see that the Taft-Hartley act "is well and faithfully administered" as the AFL decided to battle it in the courts and to fight its backers at election time. The AFL high command turned thumbs down, however, on a general protest strike.

Mr. Truman's statement noted that the act was passed over his veto "in accordance with the constitutional processes of

our government" and declared that "we must all respect its provisions."

"Insofar as management and labor are concerned," he continued, "there is a vital responsibility upon them to comply with the law in a spirit of tolerance and fair play. Neither management nor labor will achieve any long-range benefit by seeking to use the provisions of this act to gain the interest of both to maintain steady production at fair wages while the effect of the new act is being tested by experience. At this time, as at all others, they will serve their mutual welfare best by working together with full recognition by each of the legiti-

mate rights of the other.

"I call upon labor and management, therefore, to exercise patience and moderation in accommodating themselves to the changes made necessary by the act.

"Industrial strife at this critical time can result only in economic dislocation injurious to all of us. If it should reach serious proportions it would threaten the stability of our economy and endanger the peace of the world.

"We cannot afford such a result. It is our solemn duty to make every effort to maintain industrial peace under the provisions of the new law.

We must all do our part."

## The Roll Call Vote

Washington, D. C.—The vote by which the Senate overrode President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill follows:

### FOR OVERRIDING—68

Republicans—48

Aiken, Baldwin, Ball, Brewster, Bricker, Bridges, Brooks, Buck, Bushfield, Butler, Cain, Capeheart, Capper, Cooper, Cordon, Donnell, Dworshak, Ector, Ferguson, Flanders, Gurney, Hawkes, Hicklenlooper, Ives, Jenner, Kem, Knowland, Lodge, McCarthy, Martin, Millikin, Moore, Reed, Revercomb, Robertson (Wyo.), Saltonstall, Smith, Taft, Thye, Tobey, Vandenberg, Watkins, Wherry, White, Wiley, Williams, Wilson, Young.

Democrats—20

Byrd, Connally, Eastland, Ellender, Fulbright, George, Hatch,

Hoey, Holland, Maybank, McClellan, McKellar, O'Connor, O'Daniel, Johnston (S. C.), Kilgore, Lucas, Magnuson, McCarran, McFarland, McGrath, McMahon, Murray, Myers, O'Mahoney, Pepper, Sparkman, Taylor, Thomas (Okla.).

Senators Wagner and Elbert D. Thomas did not vote but were announced as being against overriding. Senator Wagner was prevented from voting by illness and Senator Thomas is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the International Labor Conference.

## PRESSMEN IN ST. LOUIS GET SUBSTANTIAL RAISE

St. Louis, Mo.—Union pressmen here have accepted a \$7.50 weekly wage increase on three local newspapers. They are members of the International Printing Pressmen's Union (AFL), Local 38.

A \$5.50 basic increase was retroactive to February 20. An additional \$2 a week was agreed upon to meet the rising cost of living. The cost of living section of the wage is keyed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics index and may be adjusted every 60 days under a clause providing for a 50c increase or decrease for each point of change in the index.

The cost of living adjustment is believed the first such provision in any pressmen's contract. The agreement runs for three years.

## Lea Act Regulating Radio Broadcasting Stations Is Upheld By Supreme Court

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court, in a 5-3 decision, ruled that the Lea Act, regulating practices in the radio broadcasting industry, is constitutional.

The constitutionality was tested by the American Federation of Musicians which struck against WAAF in Chicago when the station refused the union's request to hire additional record librarians. Officials of the station contended that the employees were not needed to carry on its business. Mr. James C. Petrillo, president of the union, called a strike and picketed the station in a test case. Federal Judge Labuy in Chicago upheld him and ruled the law unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decision merely affirmed the authority of Congress to pass the Lea Act. It left to the United States Attorney in Chicago to determine whether Mr. Petrillo should be prosecuted under the law.

In overruling the Chicago Federal Court, Justice Black, speaking for the majority, said that it was not necessary for Congress to prohibit "all (practices) within its power to prohibit" in order to legislate against some practices. It had been charged by the union that the act unconstitutionally singled out broadcasting employees for regulation while leaving other classes of workers free to engage

in the practices forbidden radio workers.

The provisions of the Lea Act which Mr. Petrillo was charged with violating states that it shall be unlawful to force a broadcaster to employ "any person or persons in excess of the number of employees needed by such licensee to perform actual services."

Justice Black admitted that Congress might have been clearer and more precise in expressing what it meant by "number of employees needed." But no better language had been suggested, he said, adding:

"The language here challenged conveys sufficiently definite warning as to the proscribed conduct when measured by common understanding and practices. The Constitution requires no more."

Justice Reed, in a minority dissent concurred in by Justices Murphy and Rutledge, agreed with the union and the lower court judge in the belief that the law was "too indefinite in its description of the prohibited acts.

Mr. Reed concluded that the disputed section of the act should be declared invalid on the principle that criminal statutes "must be so written that intelligent men may know that acts of theirs will jeopardize their life liberty or property."

## THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE

Washington, D. C.—Eben Ayers, assistant White House press secretary, said the President received 1,000 telegrams, all congratulating him on the veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill. There has been insufficient time for letters to get in, he added.

Mail and telegrams received up to the time of the President's veto message ran five to one in favor of veto, Mr. Ayers said. He estimated that 180,000 letters, 575,000 cards and 30,000 telegrams were received.

## BUILDING WORKERS RAISED

Kansas City, Mo.—A 32-day tieup of commercial building ended here as five major AFL building crafts won 15 cents hourly wage increases. Home-building was unaffected.

Unions involved in the settlement were the carpenters, laborers, operating engineers, lathers and cement finishers. Electricians and sheet metal workers signed earlier agreements for the same boost while boilermakers, glaziers and painters settled for 12 1/2 cents an hour.

## JOBS, EARNINGS AT NEW HIGH

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported high levels for production and employment with no down-turn in sight. Employment for May held steady at record levels and weekly earnings in manufacturing industries reached an all-time high.

On the basis of preliminary data it was estimated that weekly earnings in May averaged \$48.86, compared with \$47.50 in April. The average work week was down to 40.4 hours, compared with the wartime average of 46 to 47 hours. Hourly earnings were estimated at \$1.21 in May, compared with \$1.186 in April.

Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said "the two fields of activity which are currently the most vulnerable—construction and the textile and clothing groups—again showed the usual seasonal changes in May. Sustained demand for labor, arising from continued

strength of consumer income and expenditures as well as from seasonal expansion in outdoor activities, was more than sufficient to offset the slight edging off which occurred in a number of manufacturing industries.

"Consequently, for the third successive month, the total of wage and salaried workers in non-farm jobs stood firm at the record level of 42,000,000 after allowance is made for work stoppages. Unemployment, at the same time, fell to less than 2,000,000, equaling the post-reconversion low achieved last fall.

"The seasonal pick-up in construction which began last March will continue throughout the summer months," Mr. Clague said, "but construction employment will fall considerably short of the record which had been anticipated. Although building has flattened out much sooner than expected, 1947 will still be one of the best construction years in our history."