

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

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BASIC ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED, SAYS TRUMAN

NLRB CALLS FOR QUICK ACTION BY BRANCH BOARDS

CALLS FOR PROCESSING OF 4,300 CASES NOW ON FILES IN REGIONAL OFFICES.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board directed its regional offices to process as soon as possible all of the 4,300 cases now on file that can be handled under provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The field offices were directed to serve promptly upon the parties copies of all charges and amended charges, in accord with the law's provision that no complaint shall issue based upon an unfair labor practice occurring more than six months prior to the filing of the charge with the board.

Since the law bans protection to supervisors, the offices were asked to dismiss at once all petitions seeking certification of units involving such employees.

The field agents will not make a complete record in craft union cases and those involving professional employees.

The law states that the board shall not... decide that any craft unit is inappropriate for (collective bargaining) on the ground that a different unit has been established by a prior board determination unless a majority of the employees in the proposed craft unit vote against separate representation.

In dealing with unfair labor practice cases it was directed that all current hearings be completed. Cases for which hearings have not yet begun will be re-examined and if the alleged violations constitute illegal conduct under the act as amended, hearings may be scheduled.

No further prehearing elections will be scheduled since the act bans this device for handling elections. But prehearing elections in which notices of election have issued may be concluded unless some categories of employees otherwise excluded by the act are involved.

In election cases field offices were requested not to submit to the board analyses of the record, complying with the law's ban on such recommendations.

Regional offices will not allow any further cross-checks but will complete those provided by existing agreements. A cross-check is a device whereby a company and a union agree to settle a dispute over representation by a payroll check of employe designation of the union as bargaining representative.

The offices were ordered to comply with the act's provision banning any election in any bargaining (Please Turn to Page 2)

Green Urges Labor Representation On Rent Control Boards

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged all State Federations of Labor to press for the appointment of labor representatives to local advisory boards to be set up under the new Housing and Rent Act.

"Real responsibility for the kind of rent controls we have under this law depends on these boards," Mr. Green wrote in a letter to the State Federation of Labor. "Do your utmost to have good boards recommended to the Housing Expediter by your Governors. Make every possible effort to make sure that labor is well represented on each rental area advisory board."

"Unquestionably the well-organized interest groups who have long fought to cripple any form of rent controls quickly made their recommendations to the Governor. Workers and their families will be the ones to suffer if the wrong persons are appointed to these local boards. It is up to your Central Labor Unions, therefore, to take immediate action in recommending qualified labor representatives for service on these boards."

"President Green has written to all State Federations of Labor asking them to receive recommendations from our Central Labor Unions in each state, for prompt submission to the Governor. Please write without delay to the secretary of your State Federation of Labor giving him the name or names of able and qualified labor representatives you propose for service on the area rent advisory committee. The State Federation will submit these names to the Governor and will make strong representations to him."

"Immediate action is imperative, for the Housing Expediter has already written to all Governors requesting their recommendations for appointments to the boards. Rents are a big part of our present high cost of living; we must exert every effort to prevent further increases by making rent controls as effective as possible under the present law. That will depend on the character of the men appointed to the local advisory boards."

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION SAYS WORKERS' OUTPUT UP

New York City.—Bosses themselves in many industries are now conceding that labor productivity is rising. The National Industrial Conference Board, a business research organization, so reported on the basis of a nation-wide poll among industrial executives.

At least two out of five companies declared that production per worker is greater than a year ago. The increases ranged from 8.5 to 30 per cent. Many firms also reported that "quality of output has improved noticeably."

Says Moderate Wage Increases, Lower Prices Will Prevent Slump

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, AFL vice-president, told a Congressional committee that moderate wage increases coupled with price decreases are required to prevent economic recession and to restore the proper balance in price, profit and wage relationships.

In testimony before the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, Mr. Woll said:

"The American Federation of Labor is convinced that the feast and famine policy of American industry which in general has allowed prices and profits to climb to such unprecedented heights that consumer buying power is dangerously lagging will inevitably lead to economic recession unless corrective action is taken immediately."

"We do not mean that in the case of each individual firm, prices and profits are exorbitant while wages are depressed. However, when the actions of each segment of our economy are added up, the aggregate figures have startling implications. Let me illustrate: "1944 was the wartime high-point in income payments to wage and salaried workers. Since that time wage rates have sharply risen, but wage rates are illusory things. Because of downgrading, shortened hours, and shifts to lower wage industries, average weekly earnings and total income payments in the form of wages and salaries dropped appreciably since that time."

"Average weekly earnings for factory workers were \$47.50 in January, 1946—the wartime peak. After a severe drop from this level it was not until April of this year that average weekly earnings again reached this amount. "Department of Commerce figures indicate that income payments in the form of wages and salaries dropped from 116.0 billion dollars in 1944, to 105.2 billion dollars in 1946—a decline of 9.3 per cent."

"But during this same period between 1944 and 1946, net income to proprietors jumped 25.3 per cent from 24.1 billion to 30.2 billion dollars, interest and net rent jumped 22.6 per cent from 10.6 to 13.0 billion, and net corporate profit jumped 21.2 per cent from 9.9 to 12.0 billion dollars."

"These figures give some indication as to who was responsible for the increase in the consumers' price index of 23.9 per cent between 1944 and May, 1947. "Obviously we do not contend that business could operate without making a profit, but we do contend that many segments of industry, are following a price-profit policy that is rapidly pricing their products out of the market and must inevitably lead to production cutbacks, unemployment, and eventual recession. If business as a whole could realize such large profits in a year characterized by vexing reconversion problems and price controls during the better part of the year, either profits must boom to unprecedented heights in 1947 with a consequent bust or a new lower price policy must be instituted with more reasonable profits but a continuing strong stable, mass market."

Mr. Woll warned that food prices must come down if further pressure for wage increases is to be avoided. Pointing out that a wage earner spends about a third of his income for food, he said additional food price increases will necessarily reduce demand for other goods. This, in turn, (Continued on Page 2)

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and I. N. Ornburn, secretary of the Union Label Trades department of the American Federation, will address the North Carolina Federation convention, meeting in Wilmington August 11-12-13. Other notable visitors will also be present.

BULLETIN NO. 1

PART III (This is the final installment of the first bulletin issued by the American Federation of Labor explaining the Taft-Hartley Act. It was prepared by the office of its General Counsel, Joseph A. Padway.)

6. May unions be guilty of unfair labor practices before August 22, 1947?

No. As indicated above, Title I of the act does not become effective prior to August 22, 1947.

However, to avoid any misunderstanding, we repeat that unlawful boycotts, jurisdictional strikes and breaches of agreements are dealt with in Title III and hence subject unions to immediate damage suits; and we repeat, too, our recommendation respecting termination or modification of agreements that expire within 59 days after August 2, 1947.

7. What reports, affidavits, etc., must unions file before they may secure any relief from the labor board?

As before stated, Title I which establishes the new Labor Board, prescribes unfair practices for unions, and requires the filing of reports and affidavits as a condition of obtaining relief under the act, is not effective until August 22, 1947. Therefore, there is no need to be immediately concerned with the filing of reports and affidavits, because these need not be filed until August 22. Further information and advice concerning the filing of such reports will be sent out in a subsequent bulletin.

8. What limitations does the law impose on the political activity of labor unions?

Labor organizations as such (but not officers or members acting personally and on their own behalf) are prohibited from making any contribution or "expenditure" in connection with the election of any federal legislator such as Senator, Congressman or other official. This prohibition applies to regular elections, primary elections, political conventions or political caucuses involving federal candidates. The prohibition clearly forbids direct or outright money contributions to a political candidate and also includes a contribution of anything of value, such as a donation made directly to the candidate, and for his own use, of literature, radio time, paid ads, use of meeting halls for speeches to the public (but not speeches to union members), etc.

Thus far the act is clear. However, by the addition to the above boldface word "expenditure" to the previously existing law, it may be claimed that the prohibition extends to any type of expenditure whatsoever made in connection with any federal political election or nomination, such as, for instance, expenditure of money by a labor organization to publish a labor newspaper setting forth a candidate's qualifications, or the hiring of radio time or newspaper space for a union's own use to urge the election or defeat of a political candidate. If that is the intent of Congress in amending the Corrupt Practices Act through the Taft-Hartley Act,

Labor Press Sends Call For Convention

Newark N. J.—The International Labor Press of America issued an official call for its 36th annual convention to be held in San Francisco on October 4th. Sessions will be held at the St. Francis Hotel.

Matthew Woll, ILPA president, and Lewis M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer, in an official communication, urged all members to attend the convention which they said will be one of the "most important" in the 36-year history of the organization.

Citing the labor press as an "important weapon in the wage earners' defense against enemies in and out of Congress," the letter said, "plans must be perfected to intensify our fight against forces which would shake the workers of America through the legislative process."

All labor publications were asked to submit entries for the 1946-47 Journalistic Award Contest not later than September 15. Winners will be announced at the ILPA convention.

WAGE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN BANNED UNDER PROPOSED BILL

Washington, D. C.—A bill to eliminate wage differentials based upon sex was introduced by Senators Claude Pepper of Florida and Wayne Morse of Oregon.

The bill would make it an unfair wage practice to discriminate in payment of wages between the sexes for comparable quality and quantity of production on similar operations.

Discriminatory wage practices against women, the sponsoring Senators said in a joint statement, "fly in the face of demands of ordinary justice. Depress wages and living standards for all employes, both men and women, cut into the living standards of women workers and the families dependent on them, and prevent the maximum utilization of our available labor resources so necessary for full production, full employment and full purchasing power."

"New factors in the American economic scene make even more imperative now corrective legislation to eliminate discriminatory wage practices based on sex," they continued.

"Growing unemployment increases the tendency to lower women's rates of pay with consequent lowering of men's rates and the entire wage structure in industry, with serious consequences for purchasing power and living standards. "Soaring prices make imperative the elimination of wage practices that further worsen the living conditions of working men and women."

"With the Taft-Hartley Law on the statute books, creating greater obstacles to peaceful settlement of workers' grievances, it is all the more important to eliminate wage differentials based on sex as one cause of labor disputes."

CONCILIATION CHIEF QUILTS

Washington, D. C.—Labor Secretary Schwellenbach accepted the resignation of Edgar L. Warren, director of the United States Conciliation Service. The resignation is effective when the director of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created by the Taft-Hartley Act, assumes office, but in no event later than August 21.

Warns Against Props Now Sustaining Present Boom

Washington, D. C.—President Truman told Congress that basic adjustments are needed to support the nation's booming economy now being sustained by "temporary props."

In a special mid-year economic report, the President said, "The unprecedented prosperity of our nation must not be a cause for idle self-congratulation."

Mr. Truman named the reconversion demands of business, the abnormal consumer demand for goods, the extensive use of savings and credit, and the excess of exports over imports as the temporary props now holding up the high levels of production and employment.

"As they weaken, we shall need to make many basic adjustments to complete the transition to a permanently stable and maximum-level peacetime economy," the President declared.

Mr. Truman said that price and income adjustments "stand foremost in need of attention."

Referring to a general improvement in the price level, the President emphasized that the improvement "should not blind us to further need for price reductions in some cases."

Mr. Truman called for wage increases where needed to attain workable relations in the wage and salary structure. He reported that the majority of consumers were not benefited by wage increases during the first half of 1947 "because of increases in the cost of living."

"The purchasing power of total consumers' incomes is no higher than at the beginning of the year," the President said.

Mr. Truman urged Congress to enact legislation to raise minimum wages, to broaden the coverage of the Social Security Act, to bring about effective rent control, and to encourage a long-range housing program.

On the whole, the President's report was optimistic. It summed up the first six months of 1947 as follows:

"At midpoint in the year 1947, we have surpassed previous high records of civilian production, and are now producing goods and services at a rate of 225 billion dollars annually. Month by month there has been talk of recession; month by month recession has failed to materialize. In June we reached a level of 60 million civilian jobs, regarded by many as impossible of attainment. Our standard of living is exceptionally high, and purchasing power has thus far been adequate to absorb completely the enormous production of American farms, mines, and factories. Farm income has attained a record level. The financial position of business is strong. A healthy slowing down in inventory accumulation has taken place. Business investment in plants and equipment has increased this year, even above the record highs of last year. Management and labor have cooperated in maintaining industrial peace, and a wide range of important collective-bargaining agreements have been signed without widespread strikes. With a slight reduction in the workweek, productivity is on the increase."

The President called upon all groups to make the voluntary adjustments required and upon Congress to enact legislation needed to place the country's economy on a firm foundation: "We must adjust our minds to (Continued on Page 2)