

Editorial

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H. A. Stalls, Editor and Publisher W. M. Witter, Associate Editor

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TOBIN SCORES NEW LAW AND REPORTS MEMBERSHIP GAIN

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the largest AFL affiliate with a membership of 900,000, plunged into a backlog of work at its convention in San Francisco last week, the first held since 1940.

Daniel J. Tobin, general president of the union for 41 years, delivered a ringing address to the opening session in which he urged a sustained drive to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and a constant battle against the influence and activities of Communist agents seeking to disrupt the labor movement.

In his attack upon the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Tobin warned that although he had always opposed the general strike, "because it is cruel to break contracts with 99 employers to punish one employer," he might be "compelled to change" his views as a result of the new labor legislation.

"You can goad a man or a nation only so long," he said. "The teamsters have not one man on strike in the State of California or in the nation. What I'm afraid of, and I'm not a pessimist, is that this new law will increase our strikes. Men will not be chained to their posts when they feel in their conscience they are justified in striking."

"I happen to have been fighting jurisdictional disputes since the first day I came into office and I happen to know you cannot settle jurisdictional disputes by law."

Commenting upon the formation of a third political party in sympathy with labor's aims, Mr. Tobin said:

"There is no hope for a third party until this labor movement in America is cemented into one organization. In my personal judgment, 95 per cent of the trade unionists of America want one organization. Let me say that if we had had one organization of labor, the Taft-Hartley Bill would never have become law."

Mr. Tobin charged some CIO leaders with efforts to block AFL-CIO unity, although the AFL had made concessions and reasonable offers in attempts to bring about organizational unity between the two labor groups.

He charged Communist agents were "working night and day to help destroy the labor movement of America and to bring about strikes which cause discontent and hatred" and "of laying the foundation for revolution."

In his formal report to the convention Mr. Tobin reported a paid-up membership of "900,000 or better" and a treasury of "around \$17,000,000, compared with corresponding figures of 450,000 and 6,000,000 seven years ago. He said the union had only scratched the surface in organizing workers within its jurisdiction.

In other convention actions a representative of trucking employers advocated the formation of a country-wide labor-management committee to "combat the lawyer's holiday which is seemingly just ahead of us" as a result of the Taft-Hartley law. Mr. Tobin advised the employer representative, Mr. Philip A. Smith, president of the National Conference of Local Cartage Operators, that his proposal would receive serious consideration by the teamsters.

Joseph A. Padway, AFL General Counsel, presented an analysis of the Taft-Hartley law and cautioned the teamsters against the belief that they could violate the law "with impunity." "If you do," he warned, "you will be out of business as a union. The anti-closed shop measures are a tragic reality."

A move on the part of the convention to increase Mr. Tobin's \$30,000 salary was thwarted by Tobin himself when he said he would not seek re-election if the increase were put through.

COST OF LIVING SOARS AGAIN

Like the thermometer responding to a heat wave, the cost of living soared again as the appetite of Big Business for profits, and more profits, remained insatiable.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the consumers' price index for June 15th stood at 157.1 for a record high, eclipsing the former level scored in March.

Retail prices of living essentials in mid-June were 18 percent higher than a year ago, and 59 per cent higher than the August 1939 level.

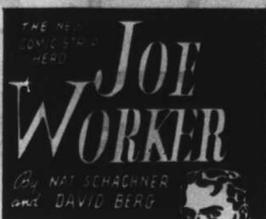
It is doubly discouraging to wage earners to realize that this record does not include increases likely to result from the new rent control law foisted upon them by the 80th Congress. Nor does it reveal a true picture of the situation today. Because of the time lag required for the gathering of the material and analysis thereof prior to publication, the price index does not reflect the rising food and meat prices noticed especially during the last month.

What about profits? The answer may be found in the magazine, "Time" owned by a millionaire and itself a business institution.

"Time" was amazingly frank. It said the truth about profits is stranger than fiction. Earnings of corporations, it claimed, "had almost reached the realm of fable."

On the basis of figures for the first six months of 1947, corporations were "making \$33,000 a minute," the magazine pointed out. During that period, aggregate profits ran at an annual rate of \$29 billion before taxes, up \$8 billion over 1946, and of \$17.4 billion after taxes, up 28 per cent above 1946.

"Increases of 100 per cent to 300 per cent were not uncommon," declared "Time."



JOE WORKER
JOE WORKER AND HIS FRIENDS GOT JOBS WITH SHARPER TOOLS TO GET THE LOW-DOWN ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. JOE AND SALLY—BEING WHITE PROTESTANTS—HAD NO TROUBLE. BUT DAVE EPSTEIN HAD TO CHANGE HIS NAME, WHILE JIM BROWN, NEGRO, COULD ONLY GET A PORTER'S JOB!



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THE UNIONS ARE JUST TRYING TO GET UP TROUBLE. LET THEM CLEAN THEIR OWN HOUSE FIRST. HOW ABOUT JIM CROW UNIONS? HOW ABOUT—



BOSS, I GOTTA TALK TO YOU. JUST A MINUTE, BERT. BR— I'LL FINISH LATER.

NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE

WHY ALL THE SECRECY? AND SINCE WHEN DOES A BIG SHOT TALK WITH A MACHINIST?



SALLY'S RIGHT. THERE'S A MYSTERY HERE... MEANWHILE, IN M.C.'S PLANT...

HOWDY, BOSS! I'M JACK TAYLOR. WELCOME TO THE SLAVE PIT!



JOE WORKER? GAVE EASY? WELL, MAKE YOURSELVES AT-

JOE SORT OF SHORTENS BY NAME TAYLOR. IT'S REALLY EPSTEIN!



EPSTEIN? THEN YOU'RE—

YEP, I'M JEWISH. WHAT YOUR RELIGION, TAYLOR?



DAVE EPSTEIN LOST NO TIME IN STARTING HIS TEST. HOW WILL TAYLOR, A FELLOW-WORKER, REACT?

FACTORY WORKERS PAID BELOW 65-CENT RATE

Washington, D. C.—More than one million, or 8 per cent, of the 12 million workers employed in manufacturing industries in October, 1946, earned less than 65 cents an hour, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over half of these were in the lumber, furniture, tobacco, and apparel industries, which are important in the economy of the South.

Workers earning less than 75 cents an hour numbered 2,100,000, including from 30 to 50 per cent of the wage earners in the lumber, furniture, tobacco, apparel, leather, and textile industry groups.

Nearly three-fifths of the workers in manufacturing industries earned \$1 or more an hour, and 15 per cent were employed at rates amounting to \$1.50 or more.

The numbers of workers at the lower rates have been reduced substantially as a result of important "second round" wage increases that have been granted since the time the estimates were prepared.

AFL 1947 Convention Calendar

(Following is a list of conventions scheduled for this year by National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. This list is not complete. Addition will be announced later.)

- Sept. 8—Amal. Ass'n Street and Electric Ry.—Los Angeles.
- Sept. 8—International Chemical Workers—Washington, D. C.
- Sept. 8—Nebraska State Federation of Labor—Hastings.
- Sept. 8—Kentucky State Federation of Labor—Bowling Green.
- Sept. 9—Connecticut State Federation of Labor—Undecided.
- Sept. 9—United Ass'n Plumbers and Steamfitters—Undecided.
- Sept. 15—Ohio State Federation of Labor—Cincinnati.
- Sept. 15—Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Wks.—Milwaukee.

- Sept. 16—Minnesota State Federation of Labor—Hibbing.
- Sept. 16—Brotherhood Railroad Trainmen—Miami Beach, Fla.
- Sept. 20—New Hampshire State Federation of Labor—Concord.
- Sept. 20—American Wire Weavers Protective Ass'n—New York City.
- Sept.—Mississippi State Federation of Labor—Jackson.
- Sept. 22—Illinois State Federation of Labor—Peoria.
- Sept. 11—Oklahoma State Federation of Labor—McAlester.
- Sept. 11—Arizona State Federation of Labor—Tucson.
- Sept. 12—Int. Union Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers—Los Angeles.
- Sept. 25—West Virginia State Federation of Labor—Charleston.
- Sept. 29—Metal Trades Department—San Francisco.
- Oct. 1—Building and Construction Trades Dept.—San Francisco.
- Oct. 2—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Carlsbad.
- Oct. 3—Union Label Trades Department—San Francisco.
- Oct.—Railway Mail Association—Jacksonville, Fla.
- Oct. 6—International Asbestos Workers—Undecided.
- Oct. 20—Commercial Telegraphers Union—Los Angeles.
- Nov. 17—International Automobile Workers—Milwaukee.
- Dec. 6—International Bill Posters—Chicago.

*Date not definitely set.

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