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## Cost Of Living To Increase; Price Gouges Hit Public LABOR LAW HATRED "DEEP AND STRONG"

### AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSTPONES DECISION ON NON-"RED" OATHS

Chicago.—AFL President William Green announced that organized labor's "hatred" of the Taft-Hartley Act has grown "deeper and stronger" since its enactment.

His statement came after the opening session of the mid-summer session of the AFL Executive Council, at which the oppressive administration of the Taft-Hartley Act was considered as the first order of business.

At a press conference, Mr. Green revealed that members of the Executive Council had spent several hours in a general discussion of the new law's effects on labor unions and particularly on the regulations issued by Chief Counsel Denham of the National Labor Relations Board.

Under Mr. Denham's directive, no union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor can bring complaint cases or petitions for elections before the NLRB unless every member of the AFL Executive Council signs non-Communist affidavits. This requirement is in addition to the signing of such affidavits by officers of national and international unions and by the officers of their local unions.

Mr. Green announced that the Executive Council had decided to defer its decision on whether to sign the required non-Communist affidavits until the final day of its meeting. The postponement, he said, was necessitated by requests for further legal advice and additional information from the NLRB with regard to the new regulations.

Meanwhile, the Executive Council plunged into other pressing business on its agenda.

First, the council unanimously voted to appoint Charles J. MacGowan, president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers to the vacant vice-presidency of the AFL caused by the resignation of G. M. Bogni, former secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Mr. MacGowan now becomes 13th vice-president of the AFL and a member of the Executive Council. He is expected to come here from Kansas City to attend the current meeting. Then the Executive Council took up consideration of the dangerous price situation and the continued inflationary trend. It is expected to issue a strong condemnation of the failure of the government's efforts thus far to bring the cost of living down.

The entire legislative program of the AFL and a series of important recommendations to the forthcoming AFL convention will come up for consideration and action later.

Another proposal to be presented by Mr. Green is to make election day in 1948 a national holiday so that all workers can have a full opportunity to go to the polls and vote. He said that if this could not be obtained by enactment of a national law, unions would try to reach agreements with employers to lay off work on that day. Transportation lines and public utilities vital to the public welfare would not be affected, Mr. Green said.

Labor is determined to get out the vote next year as never before, Mr. Green said, in order to defeat those candidates for Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley law and to elect a new Congress more responsible to human needs.

The AFL chief revealed that Trygve Lie, secretary-general of the United Nations Organization, had accepted an invitation to appear before the Executive Council later on at this meeting to explain the work of the UNO in the promotion of world peace and to relate the progress made to relieve the postwar suffering of the distressed peoples of Europe and Asia.

### SHIRT WORKERS GET RAISE

Pottsville, Pa.—The AFL's United Garment Workers Union announced it has obtained wage increases of 4 cents an hour for time workers and from 4 to 8 cents for piece workers for 2,000 employees of the Phillips Jones Corporation here.

### TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO DAVID DUBINSKY

Chicago.—More than 1,000 reservations have been received for the testimonial dinner to be tendered David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, on September 9.

This was revealed by Morris Bialis, ILGWU vice-president, and William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, chairman and co-chairman of the committee arranging the dinner. They stated:

"Organized labor is paying tribute to David Dubinsky for his labor statesmanship, his wise leadership and his humanitarian response to the appeals of the less fortunate peoples throughout the world. The Chicago Federation of Labor, the Executive Council of the AFL, and the Jewish Labor Committee are jointly tendering this dinner to David Dubinsky not only as a tribute to a great man, but also to show labor's complete support for the great humanitarian work being rendered by the Jewish Labor Committee, at home and abroad."

Money raised at the dinner will help promote and continue the activities of the Jewish Labor Committee in the care of displaced persons abroad and in the fight at home to combat all forms of intolerance and bigotry within the labor movement.

### GREEN TO TALK ON AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green will speak on the AFL's radio program, "Labor, USA," scheduled for September 9.

Mr. Green will report to the nation on the action taken by the AFL Executive Council then in session in Chicago. His remarks will be broadcast at 10:30 p. m. Eastern Daylight Time over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

### AFL ASBESTOS WORKERS EXTEND PACT, UP WAGES

Waukegan, Ill.—The AFL international Chemical Workers Union, representing about 1,800 John-Manville workers, signed an amendment to their current contract which calls for a 10c hourly basic wage increase, effective immediately.

The amendment also provided for extension of the present one-year contract six months beyond the scheduled termination date, March 29, 1948, and stipulated that union dues would be checked off by the company only upon written authorization by individual union members.

### ILGWU TO SET UP POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Forest Park, Pa.—The general executive board of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union authorized the establishment of a political department within the union and a fund of \$500,000 to wage its fight for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

The action was taken by the board at its regular meeting here at Unity House, the union's huge summer resort.

David Dubinsky, president of the union, said the function of the new department would be political education and organization among the ILGWU's 400,000 members for "more effective assertion of their rights as citizens against the rising tide of reaction."

He and other members of the executive board made it plain that the membership meant electing to public office "candidates pledged to progressive legislation in general and the repeal of the iniquitous Taft-Hartley law in particular."

The \$500,000 fund to supplement the new department's activities is to be raised by voluntary contributions from union members. The executive board said that it had "every reason to believe that our membership will respond eagerly and liberally to this appeal and call to action."

According to the board, the immediate goal of the political department will be to "mobilize our full voting manpower or every state and community in every local union and sub-division."

"This means," the board added, "a nationwide drive for registration of voters and for full participation in forthcoming elections by our members, their families and friends."

Other action by the board included approval of a proposal to petition the United States Government to allow 10,000 displaced Europeans to enter this country and fill the need for experienced manpower in the cloak and suit industry.

Mr. Dubinsky said the industry had been complaining for more than two years about the acute shortage of trained men, and "we are offering a solution to the problem."

Members of the executive board said that the petition was based on a manpower report of the National Cloak and Suit Industry Recovery Board and they were confident that none of the 10,000 would become public charges.

According to the board, the shortage of trained workers resulted from many experienced tailors retiring under the union's retirement plan, death, and the fact that there were very few persons training to work in the industry.

Mr. Dubinsky announced that the board had agreed further to establish a legal department for the union and had named as its director Morris P. Glusheim, former associate general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board.

### AFL PAPER MILL WORKERS GET WAGE HIKE, HOLIDAY

Philadelphia.—The AFL's Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers announced the signing of a revised contract affecting 1,100 employees of 19 firms here.

The revised agreement provides for extension of the no-strike and union shop clauses of the original contract and awards a 10 per cent wage increase. In addition, the union gained an additional paid holiday, bringing the total of such holidays to seven.

### RETAIL FOOD PRICES HIT NEW HIGH, 16% OVER 1946

Washington, D. C.—The food bill for workers' families rose again by 1.4 per cent during the period from mid-June to mid-July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The increase sent the BLS food price index up to a point 16 per cent above a year ago, 106 per cent over August, 1939, and 193.1 per cent greater than the levels of the 1935-39 average.

The over-all increase resulted from substantial jumps for some commodities and was not a reflection of price increases on all products. Prices of fats and oils, fruits and vegetables and coffee were lower during the period, while consumers paid more for meats, eggs, and dairy products.

### ALEXANDER GOMPERS, SON OF SAMUEL GOMPERS, PASSES

New York City.—Alexander J. Gompers, youngest and last surviving son of Samuel Gompers, the labor leader, died in his home, 1145 79th Street, Brooklyn. His age was 69. He retired on June 2 as a referee of the Workmen's Compensation Bureau of the New York State Department of Labor.

Mr. Gompers was born in this city and educated here. He first adopted the trade of cigar-making, which was his father's original trade. Later he went into cigar manufacturing.

### CHICAGO LABOR DAY RALLY BIG AFFAIR

Chicago.—The Labor Day celebration held in Soldier Field proved to be a more gigantic affair than most optimistic estimates predicted.

Chicago police said that 275,000 people were attracted to the rally with only 125,000 of that number gaining admission to Soldier Field. Private cars, taxicabs and public transportation units were tied up in traffic jams on all approaches to the Field. Shortly after 1 p. m. radio station WCFL broadcast special messages at regular intervals announcing that the Field was full and urging people who had not yet started for the scene to remain at home or change their plans for the afternoon.

The celebration was the greatest Labor Day rally in the history of the country, declared AFL President William Green who gave the principal address which was broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company nationwide network.

Speeches were kept to a minimum and for a full afternoon the vast crowd was entertained by some of the nation's best circus performers, stage representatives and musicians. Midget auto races and runs over the field by Capt. Bill Odum in his globe-circling "Bombshell" plane provided additional thrills and excitement for the throngs.

The overwhelming success of the occasion reflected to the credit of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which sponsored the rally and made all necessary arrangements as part of the Federation's celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

### NEGRO GROUP PROTEST LAW

East Brookfield, Mass.—The National Urban League, an association which conducts social work among Negroes, condemned the Taft-Hartley law.

### WFTU BRANDED AS RUSSIAN INSTRUMENT

Southport, England.—George I. Richardson, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL's International Association of Fire Fighters, branded the World Federation of Trade Unions as an instrument used by the Soviet government to further its "expansionist and aggressionist policy."

In a forceful speech before the British Trades Union Congress, Mr. Richardson, in his capacity of fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, charged the present differences between the Soviet government and America are due to the "Kremlin's violation of every agreement it made to guarantee the independence and the democratic rights of its weak and poor neighboring states."

Reiterating the AFL's opposition to the WFTU on the grounds that it is impossible to co-ordinate the aims and activities of state-controlled worker groups on the one hand and free trade unions on the other, Mr. Richardson said:

"The record of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the contents of its publications, the activities of its general secretary, its consistently hostile attitude toward Great Britain and the United States, its failure to level even the slightest criticism of any Soviet action, its continued glorification of the state-controlled unions behind the 'Iron Curtain,' should compel every free trade union group connected with this organization to re-examine the entire international labor situation and the part being played in it by the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions."

"What we actually have today is not an international federation of free trade unions, but an organization dedicated to confusion and discord with the obvious objective of undermining all of those nations where free and unfettered trade unionism is still possible."

"The World Federation of Trade Unions today is not an economic organization of labor organized to protect the rights and interests of workers. It is primarily a political auxiliary of forces reflecting the foreign policies of certain governments—governments that are either satellite or dictatorial in nature and, therefore, in effect opposed to the existence of genuine free trade unions in their own countries."

Mr. Richardson criticized the Soviet government and asserted that differences have arisen with Russia because of her "determined expansionist course, her stubborn rejection of every attempted effective international control of atomic energy."

### KHEEL GIVEN N. Y. CITY LABOR RELATIONS POST

New York City.—Mayor O'Dwyer named Theodore W. Kheel as director of this city's Labor Relations Division to succeed Edward C. Maguire, who resigned to resume the private practice of law.

Mr. Kheel was deputy director of the division prior to his promotion. Before he entered city service he served as executive director of the National War Labor Board and as chairman of the New York Regional War Labor Board for New York and New Jersey. He also served as co-chairman of the Steel Commission and was a member of the Mayor's Transit Advisory Commission named last year to settle a Board of Transportation labor dispute.

### AFL BEGINS CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE SITUATION ON THE PRICE FRONT

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor launched a vigorous campaign against the rising cost of living as reports from all over the nation indicated that prices are soaring to new high levels.

AFL President William Green directed a letter to the local AFL affiliates in all cities and towns in which the Senate-House Committee on the Economic Report is preparing to hold hearings on the prices of consumer goods, urging the local groups to flood the committee with evidence of exorbitant prices now gouging the consumer.

### NLRB DISMISSES 50 ELECTION CASES

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board dismissed 50 representation election cases involving supervisory employees because the board has no authority to handle such cases under the Taft-Hartley law.

The law amended the National Labor Relations Act so as to remove supervisors from the definition of employees, and accordingly from the jurisdiction of the board.

The 50 election cases, which were awaiting action by the NLRB in Washington, involved about 5,400 supervisors in 16 states.

Unions affected by the action of the NLRB include the following AFL affiliates: District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, and the Insurance Supervisors' Union.

### BUILDING APPRENTICESHIPS AT RECORD HIGH IN JULY

Washington, D. C.—Apprentices in the building trades reached an all-time high of 103,640 during July, according to a report released by the Apprentice Training Service of the Department of Labor.

Establishment of the record in July is the culmination of a steady 26 per cent increase in apprenticeship programs for building workers since the first of the year.

In commenting upon the joint sponsorship of these training programs by labor and contractors, Mr. William F. Patterson, Director, Apprentice Training Service, said, "It reflects the get-together spirit of contractors and labor in this all-important task."

### AFL WILL CONTINUE GREEK RELIEF WORK

New York City.—The Labor League for Human Rights declared it will proceed with plans to ship 2,500 food packages to Greece for distribution.

This announcement by the League, which is sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, came when the Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE) said it would terminate its Greek program due to differences with the Greek government over the manner in which CARE packages are distributed.

The AFL food packages for Greece consist of 500 special parcels for babies and 2,000 for adults.

They will be distributed to persons selected by a joint committee of American and Greek trades unionists. No interference by the Greek government is expected.

This action by the Labor League for Human Rights represents an extension of the aid program instituted to help the unfortunate peoples of Europe. Food packages have been donated by the League and already distributed to groups abroad including German and Austrian trade unionists.

Opinion of experts revealed that the cost of living is due to go up rather than down, as the profit-hungry interests boosted prices to maintain or increase their record take.

In produce markets, dealers confidently predict retail prices of \$1 a pound for butter and \$1 a dozen for eggs.

In Chicago, prices of corn and oats hit new highs for the second consecutive day, while wheat advanced several cents a bushel to a new peak for this time of year, at the height of the harvest.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an increase in the wholesale price index for 900 commodities for the ninth straight week. The index now stands at a level 20.1 per cent above a year ago.

The jump in corn price was blamed upon more bad weather reported from the corn belt. On top of this came the warning from John F. Frey, chairman of the American Meat Institute, that the corn crop may be damaged further by frosts.

If frost comes at the average time this year, from one-third to one-half the corn crop will be in danger, Frey said.

He forecast a drop in meat production this year, "at a time when there is more need and demand for meat than ever before."

Meanwhile the Agriculture Department told the world that farmers this year have averaged about 42 cents a dozen for eggs, the highest price in history and about 7 cents above last year's price.

Although egg production is higher than a year ago, prices are expected to remain high because of the shortage of red meat, the department said.

Mr. Green, in his letter to all local AFL groups, urged them to present to the congressional committee the facts of the present price situation "in their true light." He said:

"The continually rising prices of the necessities of life is the single most important problem confronting America today."

"Government figures, which can only partially measure the rise in the cost of living, show that the prices of products purchased by an average family hit a new high during the month of June, when they were 56 per cent higher than in January, 1941. Food and clothing, which require the bulk of the average worker's wage, rose in price 95 and 84 per cent, respectively. Preliminary figures for July and August are even higher."

"The first session of the 80th Congress closed its eyes to this continually rising cost of living. Its only action was to authorize the present investigation of the high cost of living. Labor should take advantage of the opportunity to present the facts in their true light."

### COAL COMPANIES FINED IN ANTI-TRUST ACTION

Boston.—The United States District Court fined 15 coal distribution organizations a total of \$24,500 on charges of conspiracy to fix prices and to monopolize soft coal distribution in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

The Department of Justice said the companies, which handle 95 per cent of the soft coal sold in greater Boston, conspired to eliminate competition among themselves.