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### Administration Of Labor Law Has Hard Sledding

AFL COUNCIL'S REFUSAL TO SIGN NON-COMMUNIST AFFIDAVITS SEEN AS BLOW TO DENHAM RULING: TAFT SAYS RULE NOT IN ACCORD WITH LAW

Washington, D. C.—The Taft-Hartley Act is on the verge of a complete breakdown in administration.

The first body blow was the refusal of the AFL Executive Council to sign the non-Communist affidavits required by a ruling issued by Robert Denham, Chief Counsel for the National Labor Relations Board. This means that, as long as the ruling stands, no cases involving AFL unions can be processed by the NLRB. The CIO is expected to follow the same policy, thus removing organized labor from the sphere of NLRB procedures.

Alarmed by this development, Senator Robert A. Taft, of Ohio, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, told newspapermen in California that there was no "legislative history" to justify the Denham ruling. He said he believed the law required non-Communist affidavits only from the officers of local unions and the national and international unions with which they were affiliated, but not from the officers of the top federations.

This statement, in effect, cut the ground from under Mr. Denham and left him no alternative but to change his ruling or to resign. Newspaper editorialists throughout the nation condemned the Denham ruling as unjustified and unconstitutional.

AFL President William Green had declared earlier that he could see no justification for the Denham regulation and that he believed the courts would so declare. He added, however, that the AFL as yet had prepared no specific court test of the matter.

The AFL Executive Council's decision was announced by Mr. Green at a press conference in a concise statement. He said:

"The Executive Council decided that the Taft-Hartley Law is reprehensible, vicious and destructive of the civil and legal rights of workers. It could not conform to the Denham ruling."

Meanwhile, the Executive Council kept up its rapid-fire attack on Senator Taft with a statement assailing his defense of State's rights in a California speech. The Council said:

"The sudden espousal of States' rights and decentralization of Governmental power by Senator Robert A. Taft, of Ohio, is completely mystifying to organized labor."

If the Senator means what he says, he should be the first to demand repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, of which he is co-author. That law thoroughly repudiates the principle of local self-government and sets up the most arbitrary system of Government control over labor and industry in the nation's history.

The Executive Council is convinced that the Federal bureaucracy created by the Taft-Hartley Act to regulate the trade union movement and rule over labor-management relations will prove more oppressive and totalitarian than all the war-time controls combined.

Senator Taft orates about the right of the people of each community to run their own affairs, but he forgets that his own law subjects collective bargaining in every little shop and factory in the nation to domination and control from Washington.

"Since its creation, the American Federation of Labor has operated as a free federation of autonomous national and international unions which, in turn, are composed of local unions enjoying local autonomy. The Taft-Hartley Act and the regulations issued under it seek to destroy that fundamental principle of democratic self-government.

"Apparently Senator Taft believes that the American workers and their trade unions have no right to the freedom which he professes to be so anxious to as-

### Wage Raises Absorbed By High Prices

STRUCTURE TO BE ERECTED AT CORNER NORTH CHURCH AND TENTH AVENUE

The Charlotte Carpenters Union Local No. 1469 this week announced the consummation of a deal whereby the union has purchased a suitable lot at the corner of North Church street and Tenth avenue upon which to erect a large and modern Labor Temple building sufficiently large to accommodate all of the Charlotte American Federation of Labor unions. Claude Nolen, carpenter's business agent, made the announcement at the Thursday night meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union.

The announcement will come as good news to all American Federation of Labor Unions in this city, as the matter of securing sufficient office and meeting hall space since the Labor Temple property on McDowell street was disposed of several months ago has been difficult. The present home of the CLU at 317 1-2 North Tryon street has been overgrown by Charlotte Unions.

This announcement will be followed by an announcement of the Charlotte Typographical Union, which has had a committee out for some time in search of suitable property upon which to build a modern printers club and meeting place for the local. The printers also intend to provide extra space to take care of meetings of other crafts in their new quarters. Perhaps the two new buildings of these Charlotte Unions will be sufficient to take care of the needs of Charlotte's local union needs within the next few months.

### Council Demands Action On Inflation

The AFL Executive Council at the Chicago meeting declared that inflation has "assumed alarming proportions" and warned that "unless the cost of living is promptly reduced and stabilized, pressure or higher wages is sure to mount."

Opposing the reimposition of price control, the Council declared the Government "must encourage expansion of production and prevent restraints upon production which create artificially high prices."

To stimulate the drive to provide a more bountiful supply of goods for American consumers, the Council recommended the immediate revision of our foreign export commitments, expansion of industrial and agricultural production, and expansion of transportation facilities to move our increased production.

The complete text of the Executive Council statement is as follows:

Inflation has now assumed alarming proportions. The purchasing power of the wage-earner's dollar has been cut in half since the war. Food prices are now bursting through the roof. Economists are predicting a dollar a dozen eggs and a dollar a pound butter. Meat is going to be more scarce and more expensive. Substitute foods, because of increasing demand, will also shoot upward.

The burden of inflation falls heaviest upon the workers because wages cannot keep pace with rising prices. Unless the cost of living is promptly reduced and stabilized, pressure for higher wages is certain to mount.

Proposals from some quarters that Government price controls be restored are not supported by the Executive Council. It is ridiculous to suppose that the present Congress would approve such legislation. While the OPA was killed prematurely, it is now dead and cannot be revived. Government regulation and control of prices is abhorrent in a free economy. We must look elsewhere for a permanent solution of this pressing problem.

The Executive Council recommends three specific measures:

1—Immediate revision of our foreign export commitments.

2—Encouragement of increased industrial and agricultural production.

3—An expansion in our transportation facilities to move our increased production.

It is time for America to take stock of its resources, its needs and its productive potential. It is time also for a similar international inventory, in accordance with the Marshall Plan.

The Executive Council believes that our country should continue to extend all possible assistance to those countries which are willing to co-operate with us for the preservation of world peace. However, our resources are not inexhaustible. There are limits beyond which our country cannot go without inviting economic disaster. These safety limits must be definitely set and adhered to. That alone would prove a stabilizing factor and prevent further speculative booms that can only end in a crash. It must be remembered that the first essential to restoration of a sound world economy is the maintenance of a sound economy here in America.

In the long run, the only way to bring our national economy into balance and shake prices down to their natural level is greater and still greater production with resumption of true, competitive enterprise. The Government must encourage expansion of production and prevent restraint upon production which create artificially high prices. It can best do this not by such artificial props as guaranteeing new industries against loss or incentive payments, but by increasing minimum wage levels to a point commensurate with decent American living standards. Millions of American workers and their families are still submerged at income levels far below subsistence standards. The present minimum wage of 40 cents an hour is a disgrace to the nation and a blight on an expanding economy.

America has not yet reached the end of its economic frontiers. We can produce more and we can consume more. Our great present danger is not surpluses but continuing shortages. These must be wiped out before living costs can go back to normal.

### FILM UNIONS AGREE ON JURISDICTIONAL TRUCE

New York City.—Heads of the thirteen principal film unions signed an agreement with New York City film producers providing that electric service will eventually reach another 396,000 rural consumers under Rural Electrification Administration loans made during the fiscal year 1947.

The loans amounted to \$251,349,172. They will enable borrowers to string more than 135,000 miles of new power lines and step up the capacity of some existing systems in forty-four states and Alaska.

Mayor O'Dwyer complimented the union officials for the part they played in reaching the agreement which, he said, is an "outstanding contribution" to stabilization of movie production and advancement of the campaign to induce film producers to make more movies in New York City.

### 'Eat Less Doctrine' Of Tatt Unpopular Advice

SLAVE LABOR LAW ADMINISTRATION NEAR BREAK TAFT'S CALLOUS ATTITUDE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO LOWER WORKERS' LIVING STANDARDS ALREADY HIT BY NEW LABOR LAW

Washington, D. C.—"Eat less," Senator Robert A. Taft's advice to the American people on how to combat the high cost of living, promises to go down in history along with Marie Antoinette's advice to her French subjects, then starving for bread—"Let them eat cake."

The Ohio Senator's Presidential aspirations suffered a severe blow as his campaign train was flooded with protests from all over the country from American citizens who resented his cruel and callous attitude.

Labor leaders were quick to point out that the basic philosophy in Senator Taft's statement was a desire to reduce the American standard of living and that this same philosophy permeated the Taft-Hartley Act, of which he is co-author. Through that law, Senator Taft sought to force American living standards down by weakening trade unions.

Meanwhile, official concern over mounting prices became epidemic in the nation's capital as politicians began assaying popular revolt against a dollar a pound butter and a dollar a dozen eggs in terms of the 1948 elections.

With an inflation crisis at hand, Government officials were forced to admit that the future looks even more dismal and that food costs, especially, were destined to go even higher.

In all parts of the country, the price spiral whirled up and around again, taking additional foods and basic commodities on its dizzy ride.

In Chicago, grain prices strained against the Board of Trade limit on daily advances, setting new seasonal highs for September corn and all deliveries of soy beans. Soy beans jumped 8 cents a bushel, July wheat was up 10 cents, corn was up 6 to 7 5-8 cents, and oats prices rose 1 7-8 to 2 1-2 cents. Operators in the grain markets expressed the belief there would be no return of Federal price controls because opposition by farmers would be too strong.

With cotton prices soaring \$3 a bale, it was estimated that the increase alone in the price of that commodity, corn, wheat, soy beans, and oats would project to the estimated 1947 crops of those farm products, add more than \$350,000,000 to their base price, to say nothing of the additional increases and mark-ups every step of the way from farm to consumer.

The wholesale price of Maxwell House coffee went up one cent a pound. Two of the major refineries of corn products raised corn syrup prices 40 cents a hundredweight, starch 25 and 30 cents, and feed products \$6 a ton.

The livestock and butter and egg markets reflected, in the form of some weakening of wholesale prices, dull trading that was attributed by some merchants to the Jewish holidays and by others to an increase in consumer resistance.

While choice steers sold in Chicago at \$35.60 a hundred pounds, the highest price since December 5 and the highest September quotation on record, other grades were unchanged to 25 cents a hundredweight lower. Butter wholesale prices in Chicago were from 2 cents lower to half a cent higher, while in New York range was from unchanged to 1 cent lower. Egg prices were unchanged from Friday.

The Birds-Eye frozen food company announced that prices of most of its products would hold at 1946 levels this winter and some items would be priced lower. Howard F. Lochrie, marketing director, said the concern's output of frozen food would be 30 to 35 per cent larger than last year.