

METAL TRADES CONVENTION

(Continued From Page 1) that a problem has been forced upon us which cannot be adjusted through compromise and appeasement. It is an effort, organized under a dictatorship, to force free men throughout the world to surrender their liberties and their representative form of government to control by dictators.

"What sacrifices we may be forced to make to maintain the freedom we now possess, time alone will demonstrate, but there can be no question as to where Americans will stand on the question of defending their own free institutions, and giving assistance to other countries whose free institutions are being menaced by those whose every activity is controlled by dictators.

ment and free institutions having their origin among the people of north-western Europe, many centuries ago, and which came to flourish in our country, have given to mankind the most precious possession they could have—the status of free men. This heritage must not be sacrificed regardless of what cost the effort may require."

Mr. Frey also declared that the Communist question is a thorn in the side of those charged with the task of attempting an amalgamation of the AFL and the CIO. He deplored the success of the Communists in retaining their influence in some CIO unions and asserted that such influence must be effectively nullified before any real merger can be achieved between the two labor organizations.

FEDERAL MEDIATION SERVICE ADOPTS A "HANDS-OFF" POLICY

Washington, D. C.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service created by the Taft-Hartley law, announced the service would follow a "hands-off" policy whenever possible in labor disputes arising from contract termination of collective bargaining contracts.

Mr. Ching said the service would put major emphasis on keeping out of as many industrial disputes as it can. Major disputes affecting interstate commerce will get first attention, he declared.

Ching said selection and screening of disputes which the service will enter is necessary because of the "great case-load burden" placed on it by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The law requires that wherever a dispute arises over a new contract or renewal of an old one in an industry affecting interstate commerce the Mediation Service shall be notified 30 days in advance of a threatened strike or lockout. Labor officials said this would apply to 500,000 firms and 15,000,000 members of organized labor—the same groups covered by the Federal Wage-Hour and Labor Relations Act.

Ching said he would shortly issue a form to be used by companies and unions in notifying the service of disputes involving modification or termination of existing agreements.

"This form will elicit information which will assist the service in determining whether in a particular case it has statutory legal authority to intercede and whether such intercession will be in accordance with the principles and policies expressed in this statement," Ching said.

"The co-operation of all employers and unions is earnestly solicited in the employment of these forms as soon as they are made available at the offices of the service, international union and employer associations."

Ching reminded employers and unions that the Taft-Hartley Act "makes it a statutory duty . . . to participate fully and promptly in conciliation and mediation meetings called by the service."

He said he would follow these general rules:

1. Employers and unions will be encouraged to resolve industrial differences by themselves.
2. Labor disputes, primarily local and having but a minor effect on interstate commerce, should be conciliated and mediated, if need be, by agencies of state or local government.
3. The test of whether the Federal service intercedes shall be "whether such a significant interruption of commerce is threatened by the dispute as clearly to require Federal intercession to protect the interest of the Federal Government."
4. The service will refrain from interceding in grievance disputes arising over the application or interpretation of an existing collective bargaining agreement, except for unusual cases.
5. The service will suggest that the parties agree to submit the employer's last offer of settlement to a secret ballot of the employees when other means of settlement has failed.

1,112 LABOR GROUPS FILE REQUIRED DATA

Washington—The Labor Department reported that 1,112 labor organizations, local and international, had filed financial reports and other information required under the Taft-Hartley law.

The total is only a small part of the 50,000 to 75,000 union organization existing throughout the country.

Under the new labor law, unions must file this data with the Labor Department—and affidavits that their officials are non-Communist with the National Labor Relations Board—in order to become eligible to use the NLRB's facilities.

William L. Connolly, director of the department's Fair Labor Standards Division, said many international unions had requested forms for distribution to their locals.

Most unions belonging to the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations are delaying action.

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LIST OF STATE MEDIATION AGENCIES NOW AVAILABLE

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Labor announced the availability of a compilation of mediation and conciliation authorities set up in 37 states and 3 territories.

The list, compiled by the Division of Labor Standards, is designed to guide unions and management in meeting requirements of the Taft-Hartley law to notify state mediation agencies simultaneously with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service of disputes over the termination or modification of collective bargaining contracts.

TAFT ADMITS EMPLOYERS COULD BE "RED"; WILLING TO REQUIRE OATH OF THEM

Portland, Ore.—Even Senator Robert A. Taft admits his Taft-Hartley Act has flaws and should be changed.

He came up here with a suggestion that corporation officers should be required to take the same non-Communist oath that is required of union leaders before they can bring cases before the National Labor Relations Board.

The Senator did not reveal, however, whether he favored such affidavits by all officers of all employers' organizations, such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The fact that employers are under no compulsion to sign non-Communist affidavits probably was an oversight of Congress when it was writing the law, he remarked. And he would have no objection to an amendment of the Taft-Hartley Act which would put them on the same footing with labor in this respect, he said.

"I guess it didn't occur to anyone in Congress that employer organizations might be fronting for the Communists," he explained, "but as far as I am concerned the law might as well apply to all who have business with the labor board."

The Ohio Senator expressed the view in the matter in response to questions at a press conference.

CRUIKSHANK APPOINTED TO U. S. HOSPITAL COUNCIL

Washington, D. C.—Nelson Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, has been appointed to the Federal Hospital Council, established last year to help administer the Government's hospital survey and construction program.

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