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SCHWELLENBACH ADDRESSES CONVENTION Repeal Of 'Slave' Law Is Labor's First Objective; Defeating Its Enemies A Close Second, Says Green

SECRETARY OF LABOR SCHWELLENBACH SAYS
SOARING PRICES OUTSTRIPPED LABOR'S
WAGE BOOSTS IN LAST 15 MONTHS

San Francisco.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach declared that during the last 15 months labor's wage rates have never been able "to catch up" with soaring prices.

In an address before the 66th convention of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Schwellenbach singled out the high cost of living as the "most important economic issue facing the United States at the present time."

Condemning those who seek to make labor the "goat" for our present inflated price level, the Secretary said:

"I think we should fight with all of our vigor any effort to continue the campaign to tie upon the wage earners of the country the label of being exclusively responsible for the increase."

Mr. Schwellenbach asserted the most powerful, forceful leadership in the solution of the nation's economic problems must come from the trade union movement. It represents the largest factor in our population, he said, and touches more intimately than any other factor the problems of the great mass of the American people.

Secretary Schwellenbach decried the suspicion with which labor unions are viewed by many of our people who, at the same time, kowtow to many organizations found all through the pattern of American life. He said:

"When we get into the field of labor, when the people who work and give the toil and the sweat which makes possible the most efficient operation of our mechanical equipment, when they try to organize immediately they are suspected their efforts to organize are resisted, their efforts to effectuate some results for the people whom they represent, take on a sinister aspect in the public view. Those who have joined in the rank and file of organized workers are told that their leaders are deceiving them and attempting to sell them down the river to their employers."

Turning to a discussion of the rising cost of living, Mr. Schwellenbach urged labor to undertake a fair analysis of the wage price relationship and said:

"If we do, it will be such a refreshing contrast to the campaign that has been carried on against you."

"I think that in part those who control the propaganda machines and who are opposed to organized labor want the American people to forget the prediction that they made in May and June of 1946, and to shoulder the blame upon their favorite whipping boy, the labor unions. The facts don't bear them out. The so-called economists whom they employ to get the figures to support their statements must blush with shame every time the publicity agent grinds out a release."

"Let me repeat the statement that frankness and honesty compel me to state there is a relationship between wage increases and price increases. It is not, however, a pushing up process or a pulling up process. All American labor attempted to do was to pursue prices and never, in the last 15 months, have they been able to catch up."

"Living costs during that period have increased 20 per cent. Weekly and hourly earnings of factory workers have risen less than 15 per cent. The \$49 or \$50 take-home pay of the average worker today buys just about the same goods and services that his \$33 did just after Pearl Harbor."

"In other words, wage increases have been used as the excuse for price increases."

In contrast to the failure of the average worker to keep up with the rising cost of living, the Secretary pointed to the high profits enjoyed by manufacturers and declared that any profits

(Continued on Page 4)

HOW DID SHE SNEAK IN?



National Labor Service

THROW HER OUT!

Council Predicts That Workers Will Win Out

OPTIMISTIC REPORT SAYS RESURGENCE OF LABOR WILL RESULT FROM HARSH AND REPRESSIVE EFFECTS OF ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION

San Francisco.—Rallying the forces of organized labor to mobilize their full strength for the drive to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act, their Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor struck an optimistic note in its report to the 66th annual AFL convention here.

Without minimizing the harsh and repressive effects of the new law, the Executive Council predicted that it would serve to arouse the nation's workers to a fighting pitch of union loyalty which is bound to result in a great resurgence of the trade movement.

After assailing Congress and reactionary employers for the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act, the Executive Council said in the introduction to its report:

"The action of Congress is doubly regrettable because the world is looking to the United States for material help and for proof that democracy assures rights and opportunities for all national groups. Though the fighting war is over we have not yet won the peace for democracy. In the present crisis of international relations, all our national policies are under world review and directly affect our ability to carry out our international programs. Reactionary employers used their great opportunity not to serve but to embarrass the cause of democracy."

"These efforts to handicap and weaken unions have roused wage earners of the United States who have the resourcefulness and the faith to meet their difficulties in a way that will serve and strengthen our democratic institutions. The coming year will witness a revival of trade unions which will make each member conscious of his responsibilities."

Other highlights of the Executive Council's report to the convention follow:

Relations With the CIO

The Executive Council warned against any collaboration with the CIO until both organizations are merged into a single, united labor movement.

The AFL, the Council said, stands ready to meet with the CIO for the purpose of working out details of such a merger, as pledged by both sides.

"We believe that this is the first and primary requirement," the report said. "All other things are incidental. We cannot have peace and war at the same time. We cannot pretend to work together in the legislative field while engaged in fighting and raiding each other in another field. We believe the rank and

file in both the AFL and the CIO favor the establishment of organizational unity immediately, and the termination of strife, division, hatred and bitterness."

Foreign Policy

Condemnation of Soviet Russia's aggressive and expansionist policies featured the Council's declaration on foreign policy.

"The American Federation of Labor is gratified to note the extent to which our government has abandoned a policy of appeasement and adopted a policy of plain speaking," the Council reported.

"We note with approval a proposal in Congress to urge amendment of the Charter of the United Nations to abolish the veto power of the five nations and to substi-

(Continued on Page 2)

ADVERTISING AND RADIO SHOWS PART OF AFL PROGRAM

San Francisco.—The Executive Council recommended vastly expanded educational and public relations program to be carried on in 1948.

If approved by the convention, the AFL will embark on a newspaper advertising drive and sponsor a highly popular nation-wide radio program during 1948.

The text of the statement follows:

The extent to which big business dominates the media through which public opinion is influenced and molded was forcibly impressed upon labor during the period when the Taft-Hartley Bill was being considered by Congress.

Almost without fail, the specious propaganda formulated by the sponsors and supporters of this legislation was given wide publicity in the press and over the radio. On the other hand, attempts by labor officials to refute this propaganda and to expose the true nature of the legislation were given scant mention.

The daily newspapers, with an amazing degree of unanimity, supported the legislation editorially. Many newspaper columnists carried on a virtual crusade for the Taft-Hartley Bill and viciously attacked anyone who opposed it. The same was true, to a large extent, of radio commentators, one of whom even had the effrontery to identify the measure as "the labor reform bill."

Because of this situation, the Executive Council authorized a special advertising and radio campaign, financed by assessments on national and international unions, to bring home the truth about the legislation to the American people. Thus, for the first time in its history, the American Federation of Labor was compelled to buy space in the newspapers and time on the air, day after day and week after week, to express its views in a way that would command public attention.

The fact that the Taft-Hartley Bill was eventually enacted over President Truman's veto does not detract from the effectiveness of the educational campaign against it which was carried on by the American Federation of Labor.

The need for the establishment and maintenance of a permanent public relations program for the purpose of offsetting the widespread propaganda activities of the powerful forces arrayed against organized labor is both very great and clearly apparent.

The American Federation of Labor program should be aimed not only at the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the defeat of similarly repressive legislation, but it should also stress the positive achievements of the American Federation of Labor in behalf of the nation's workers and the American people as a whole.

The task of building up better relations for organized labor will require expansion of the Information and Publicity Service of the AFL. It will require a planned annual program of newspaper advertising and it will likewise involve a carefully prepared series of radio programs on an annual basis designed to reach a maximum audience. In the radio field, the entertainment unions affiliated with the American Federa-

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BEFORE 66TH AFL CONVENTION RAPPS CHARGES OF LABOR'S INEFFICIENCY; HITS AT THOSE OBSTRUCTING PEACE

San Francisco.—Sounding the keynote at the opening of the 66th convention of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, AFL President, declared repeal of the Taft-Hartley law is the number one objective of the labor movement.

Mr. Green, speaking before the 700 delegates to the largest convention ever held by the AFL, pledged uncompromising efforts on the part of labor to work for the defeat of every member of Congress who voted for the oppressive measure.

Wild cheering by the enthusiastic audience greeted Mr. Green's references to the Taft-Hartley law and the political campaign against its sponsors. Throughout his speech spontaneous applause could be heard ringing through the vast hall where the representatives of the AFL's largest membership in history, nearly 7,600,000, gathered to map labor's plans for the forthcoming year.

The first week of the sessions are devoted to guest speakers who will present their views on timely subjects. Meanwhile behind the scenes, convention committees prepare the programs and resolutions for presentation to and action by the delegates. An air of tenseness prevailed as the union members assembled here prepared to face the momentous issues which lie ahead.

The opening session was called to order by John Shelly, California State Senator and president of the California Federation of Labor and three members Mr. Green, following addresses of welcome by Governor Earl Warren and Mayor Roger Lapham of San Francisco. Other preliminary addresses were delivered by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, and three members of Congress, U. S. Senator Sheridan Downey, and Representative Richard J. Welch and Frank R. Havenner, both of San Francisco.

The state federation already bars Communists from "seeking or holding any office" in the organization.

Before it can become effective the amendment must be offered to the annual convention of the federation next July. It would not become operative until a year from its acceptance. The change would prevent Communists from acting as representatives or delegates either at federation conventions or at conferences participated in by it.

The council also called on Governor Dewey to set up a committee, on which labor would be represented, to investigate the high cost of food and other commodities and to recommend action and legislation to the State Legislature.

"The millions of workers whom Lincoln said God must have loved because He made so many of them, along with their staunch and devoted friends outside the labor movement, will march to the polls and cast their votes, and if they do, there will be no doubt as to the outcome of the election."

"So now we must prepare for this. It is up to us to do the job. The workers of the nation can do it and will do it in my judgment. If we organize right from the bottom to the top, and see to it that every worker records his vote on election day to those who voted against them and stood against them in their hour of need."

"Our appeal will be to the workers of the nation and to all our friends to stand with us in this crisis, defeating this attempt to limit freedom, liberty, and democracy and to substitute therefor for dictatorship and governmental control of the economic life and activity of the workers of this nation. In that way we will be fighting, not only to preserve labor from this anti-labor legislation, but in addition for the preservation of freedom, liberty, democracy and justice in the United States of America."