

SECRETARY OF LABOR

(Continued from Page 1)
 which result in price increases "cannot be defended in this particular period of our national economy."
 He denounced the policy of corporations in setting aside reserves for a "rainy day" when such policy results in forcing workers to dip into their declining savings. He said:
 "I think the wage earner is as much entitled to get a nestegg for the future as is a corporation."
 Mr. Schwelienbach called for the support of organized labor in attempts to build up a strong Labor Department to serve the workers of the nation. He decried the cut in appropriations made for the department by the 80th Congress and declared that

the cuts in funds have reduced the services which the department is capable of rendering to organized labor.

AFL 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.)
 Oct. 20—Commercial Telegraphers Union—Los Angeles.
 Nov. 17—International Automobile Workers—Milwaukee.
 Dec. 6—International Bill Posters—Chicago.
 *Date not definitely set.

AFL's Largest Convention Will Act In Labor Crisis; Workers Predicted To Win

LARGEST AFL MEMBERSHIP IN HISTORY WILL BACK CONVENTION MOVES TO REPEAL NEW LABOR LAW AND DEFEAT REACTIONARIES

San Francisco.—Backed up by its largest membership in history, the 66th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor came to grips with the worst legal crisis ever faced by organized labor in America.
 As President William Green rapped the gavel, calling the 600 delegates to order and formally opening the convention sessions, the attention of the Federation's new high total of 7,577,716 members was focused on San Francisco, awaiting the important decisions to be made on dealing with the Taft-Hartley Act.
 That the American Federation of Labor intends to fight this obnoxious and repressive law with all its power and to carry on the fight relentlessly until the law is repealed, was made evident by the expressed attitude of the delegates from 105 national and international unions, as well as State Federations of Labor, City Central bodies and directly affiliated local unions.
 United confidence that the forces of democracy and progress will prevail over the reactionary tide which put over the Taft-Hartley Bill emanated from every section of the convention floor in the Civic Auditorium.

The delegates were expected to consider a 4-day attack on the predominant problem of the Taft-Hartley Act:

- 1—To challenge specific provisions of the law in the courts and to seek a decision by the National Labor Relations Board overruling NLRB Chief Denham's ruling requiring non-Communist affidavits from all AFL Executive Council members.
- 2—To negotiate new contracts with employers which will obviate application of some of the stringent provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.
- 3—To conduct a vigorous educational campaign, including the use of newspaper advertising and sponsored radio programs, to rally public opinion against the Taft-Hartley Act.
- 4—To intensify the AFL's political activities in the 1948 campaign so as to defeat those who voted for the law and to elect a new Congress which will have a mandate to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act.

Aside from the crippling effects of this anti-labor legislation, the attention of the delegates was centered on two other major subjects.

First, union leaders were demanding action to lower the cost of living. Higher prices, they charged, had wiped out wage gains and threaten the entire national economy.

Second, the delegates appeared deeply concerned by the recent developments in international affairs, especially the aggressive attitude of Soviet Russia. To maintain world peace, they felt, an immediate showdown with Russia is necessary.

Convention committees prepared to hold hearings on large numbers of resolutions and Executive Council recommendations dealing with national and State legislation.

Heading the list of legislation which the convention is expected to demand of Congress are these bills:

- 1—Amendment of the Fair Labor Standards Act to boost the minimum wage from the present intolerably low level of 40 cents an hour to at least 75 cents.
- 2—Enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, which would make possible the construction of 15 million new homes in America during the next ten years.
- 3—Passage of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, to increase Social Security benefits in line with advancing living costs, to wden the coverage of such benefits and to establish a nation-wide system of insurance against the costs of medical care.

A number of distinguished speakers have been invited by President Green to address the early sessions of the convention while the committees are holding hearings and preparing their reports to the convention.

On affairs of special interest to labor, the convention will hear from Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach and Mayor Hubert H. Humphrey of Minneapolis, a well-known liberal. Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, and Lee F. Johnson, Vice President of the National Public Housing Conference, will talk on legislative matters.

Problems relating to veterans will be discussed by the new Commander of the American Legion, James F. O'Neill; General Mark W. Clark, World War II hero and now commanding general of the U. S. Sixth Army, and J. R. Klaw-



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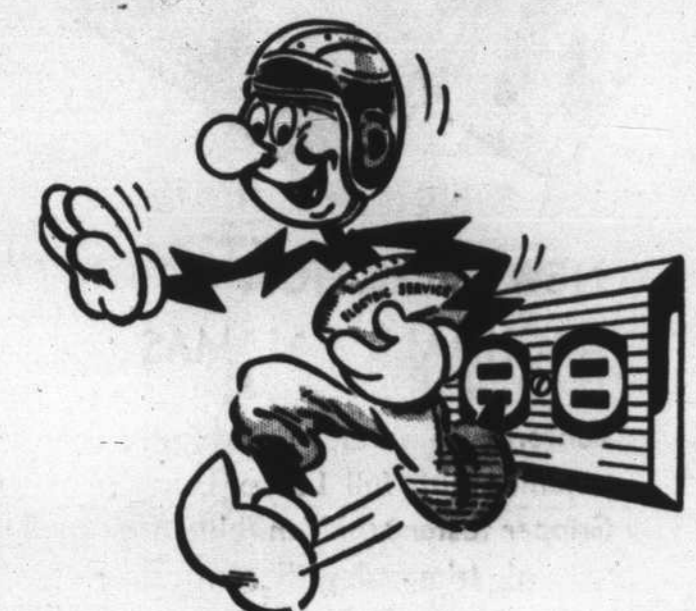
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