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CENTRAL LABOR UNION FAVORS AUDITORIUM AFL Convention Action And NLRB Decision To Free Affiliated Unions From Denham Ruling

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELIMINATING OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION BY AFL CONVENTION

San Francisco.—Solution of the most pressing immediate problem affecting members of the American Federation of Labor under the Taft-Hartley law was announced by President William Green.

He said the Executive Council had decided to recommend to the annual convention in progress here an AFL constitutional amendment under which the president and secretary-treasurer will be the sole officers of the federation and the 13 vice-presidents will lose those titles and be considered solely members of the Executive Council.

It is considered a foregone conclusion that the convention will approve this amendment by the necessary two-thirds vote. As soon as it does Mr. Green said he and Mr. Meany will sign the non-Communist affidavits required under the Taft-Hartley law as a condition precedent to unions being permitted to utilize the services of the National Labor Relations Board in election and complaint cases.

The amendment was needed primarily to protest the 300,000 members of directly affiliated federal labor unions. Previously the National Labor Relations Board by overruling its own chief counsel Mr. Denham had wiped out the requirement that all members of the AFL Executive Council must sign the affidavits before the local unions of any national or international union could qualify to use the board's services.

This development which came after several prolonged meetings of the Executive Council highlighted the first week of the convention.

Other major convention news included:

1—A program for a nationwide and well organized political campaign by the American Federation of Labor in 1948 was drafted for submission to the delegates.

2—Recommendations were made to the convention that further efforts be made to settle the long standing Hollywood jurisdictional dispute along the lines previously urged by the Executive Council and its special committee which made an arbitration award two years ago and later interpreted and clarified that award.

3—Mayor Hubert H. Humphrey of Minneapolis urged the delegates in an eloquent address to adopt a positive progressive program that will appeal to all American people if labor wishes to defeat reactionary forces in the coming elections. A negative approach calling merely for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and other anti-labor legislation he warned will be doomed to failure.

4—General Mark W. Clark, world war hero and now Commanding General of the U. S. 6th Army, charged that the Soviet government has blocked every constructive proposal for the speedy rehabilitation of Europe and establishment of world peace.

5—National Commander James F. O'Neil, of the American Legion, voiced a solemn warning that all the progress made by labor and all its hopes for the future may be wiped out overnight if war breaks out again. He urged a strong and modern national defense program to safeguard against such a catastrophe.

Business sessions of the convention were tragically interrupted by the collapse at the speakers platform of Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel for the AFL, and his death in a local hospital a few hours later.

President Green and many of the leading delegates paid the highest tributes to Mr. Padway at a mass funeral service held in the convention hall. More than 2,000 persons passed the

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Ministers And Labor Groups To Meet Monday

Regular monthly luncheon meetings of members representing the Ministerial Association of Mecklenburg county and members of organized labor unions are now being held, the second of the luncheons to be held at Thacker's Monday at 1:30 o'clock.

Ministers of Mecklenburg county and members of AFL and CIO unions participate in these affairs. John Ramsey, religious lecturer, was chairman of the first meeting and Father Lynch of St. Patrick's Catholic church will preside over the Monday noon luncheon. A member of the Labor groups will preside over the November meeting.

The purpose of these meetings is to foster a closer relationship between the various churches and the workers in this vicinity and much enthusiasm is being manifested by both ministerial and labor groups and a nice attendance is expected Monday.

PA. LABOR UNIONS HOLD EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

Lancaster, Pa.—The first educational institute sponsored by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of Central Labor Unions was held here in conjunction with the 9th annual convention of the Pennsylvania Union Labor League.

About 125 persons, representing 12 central labor unions, attended the day-long institute session held at Franklin and Marshall College. They participated in discussion of current problems such as union operation under restrictive Federal and state labor laws, trends in social security legislation, and ways and means of carrying on effective political activity.

Included among the speakers at the discussion groups were Nelson Cruikshank, the AFL's Director of Social Insurance Activities, and Lewis G. Hines, National Legislative Representative for the AFL.

William C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers and an AFL vice-president, made the principal address at a joint banquet for the CLU delegates and the state Union Labor League.

Workers in durable goods averaged \$52.39 a week, slightly above their July income but not as high as the postwar peak reached in June. The department pointed out, however, that hours of work in August amounted to 39.8 per week, a slight decrease from the June work week.

Charlotte Central Labor Union at its regular weekly meeting Thursday night of this week adopted a resolution endorsing the proposed bond issue which provides, a \$2,500,000 Civic Center and Auditorium for Charlotte. Considerable discussion was had on the resolution before its passage and the favorable vote indicates that local American Federation of Labor Unions are highly civic minded and are for the things that contribute to the progress and growth of the Queen City of the South.

The general thought as recorded brought out that many large national conventions can be invited to Charlotte and with the new and larger facilities will be taken care of in grand style. The delegates of one of the unions stated that they had to notify their international union that they were no in position to entertain the annual convention here after the convention had been invited and had accepted the invitation to hold its session in Charlotte. This convention was the International Typographical Union convention which went to Miami because of lack of facilities to entertain it locally. Usually about 15 hundred delegates and visitors go to these conventions. Other local union delegates expressed similar thoughts.

A report was heard from each affiliated local union and Sterling L. Hicks gave a report relative to his recent appointment on the Charlotte Parks commission.

A resolution was adopted to approve a letter to be sent to The Observer Open Forum column in answer to a news article which appeared in The Observer on September 17 in which a local speaker was quoted as having said wage increases throughout the United States had increased 314 per cent since 1939.

A nice attendance was present.

PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS VALUED AT \$594,000,000 FOR SIX MONTHS

Washington, D. C.—Federal and state construction projects begun during the first six months this year are valued at \$594,000,000, according to a report of the Federal Works Agency.

The total dollar value does not include residential building. Activity for this year represents a 43 per cent increase over projects initiated during the same period in 1946.

Preliminary figures indicate that contracts let during July, August and September will be 30 per cent greater in value than those awarded for the preceding three months.

Forty states and the District of Columbia recorded increases in their public works contract totals for the first half of 1947.

The five leading states in local public works contract awards were New York, California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Illinois. Their combined values represented 38 per cent of the national total.

By type of construction, the agency said that the most pronounced gains over the first half of 1946 were: Utility construction, up 129 per cent to \$50,000,000; nonresidential building, up 123 per cent to \$220,000,000; and airfields, up 146 per cent to \$33,000,000.

A more moderate increase was shown in highways (which include Federal aid projects) up 18 per cent to \$496,000,000.

Carpenters Set Up State-Wide Council

W. Claude Tolson, local carpenters' union business agent, informs The Labor Journal that a State Council of Carpenters has been set up for North Carolina, the first meeting having been held in Durham on September 7. Officers were named at this meeting and plans set in motion to make the Council a permanent part of the North Carolina labor movement.

The meetings will be held once each month in cities to be named by the Council. The second meeting, was held in Greensboro last Sunday with carpenter representatives from all sections of the State present.

Ellis Wright of Asheville is president; A. N. Hutcheson, Jr., of Durham is vice president, and W. C. Nolen of Charlotte is secretary-treasurer.

The Carpenters at the first meeting in Durham decided that each body of Carpenters in the State should be represented on the Council by a vice president and the following vice presidencies were created and vice presidents named:

H. P. Glespie, Burlington; W. H. Hoyle, Asheville; J. T. Land, Sr., Wilmington; J. B. Aimas, Charlotte; J. T. Hobson, Greensboro; L. H. Earnhardt, Salisbury; H. A. McGill, Durham; W. R. McBees, Winston-Salem.

A. E. Brown, organizer for the North Carolina Federation of Labor, delivered an address.

Judge Padway

San Francisco.—Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel for the American Federation of Labor, collapsed toward the close of an impassioned address before the AFL convention here and died seven hours later in Stanford University Hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage.

The delegates to the convention, saddened by the sudden passing of their friend and co-worker, suspended the scheduled convention proceedings the following morning and joined in impromptu but heartfelt tributes to Mr. Padway. After brief funeral services at the convention hall, the body was shipped to Milwaukee for burial.

AFL President William Green, voicing the sentiments of Mr. Padway's friends and associates in the American Federation of Labor, said:

"Judge Padway died as he lived, fighting for the cause of labor. His loss is a serious blow to the labor movement which he served so faithfully and brilliantly. The delegates to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, who admired and respected and loved him, will join in services to his memory.

"I cannot express my own feelings of profound sorrow."

Mr. Padway had been suffering from hypertension and a stomach ailment for several years, but he did not let his illness interfere with his work and, in fact, has been under a more severe strain during the past

Building Trades To Hire Business Agent For Full-Time Basis

Charlotte Building & Construction Trades Council at this week's meeting voted to set machinery in motion looking toward the employment of a full-time business agent to keep up with the ever-increasing volume of business coming before the building tradesmen of Charlotte and vicinity. The BT executive committee was empowered to devise ways and means of setting up the Business Agent's office and was directed to report back to the meeting next week.

The Building Trades Council is to be congratulated on this new step forward.

Brother Henry Eddins, who has had considerable experience in building trades activities, has been mentioned for the position. He is a hard worker and qualified to take over this new work.

FACTORY WORKERS' PAY \$49.29 WEEKLY IN AUGUST

Washington, D. C.—Factory workers earned an average of \$49.29 a week in August, the Labor Department reported. It said that additional wage increases boosted average hourly earnings to a record \$1.238.

year than in any previous comparable period.

His address to the convention, reviewing the legal highlights of 1947 and labor's battles in Congress, the state legislature and the courts against anti-labor legislation, told the story of working under high pressure to head off recurring legal crises.

The prosecution of James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, the can Federation of Musicians, the libel suits against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the contempt proceedings against the United Mine Workers of America and the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act were some of the high spots mentioned by Mr. Padway before he collapsed at the speaker's platform.

Mr. Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany noticed that the 56-year-old lawyer was, becoming unsteady on his feet as he spoke and persuaded him to sit down for a few moments while a convention announcement was read. Although he protested he was ready to go on and complete his address, it became apparent that he was too ill to do so, and the convention session was adjourned. Accompanied by his wife and his brother, I. B. Padway, a San Francisco attorney, the stricken lawyer was taken to his hotel, where a doctor was summoned. Removed to Stanford Hospital, Mr. Padway lost consciousness and passed away a few hours later.

His last words to the convention (Continued On Page 4)

BOARDS' 4-TO-1 DECISION FLATLY REVERSES EDICT REQUIRING TOP AFL OFFICERS TO SIGN OATHS DISCLAIMING COMMUNIST BELIEFS

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board, in a 4-to-1 decision handed down in a test case, ruled that top officers of the AFL and the CIO are not required to sign non-Communist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law.

Bowing to the ruling by the NLRB, Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the board, announced the new decision would apply in unfair practice complaint cases as well as in representation cases brought before the NLRB.

Denham originally issued a regulation requiring affidavits by all AFL officers before any AFL unions could appear before the board. The NLRB's decision flatly reversed him.

COUNCIL RENEWS OFFER TO MEET WITH CIO TO PLAN UNITY OF LABOR GROUPS

San Francisco.—The Executive Council announced it stands ready to meet with the CIO at any time for the purpose of achieving organizational unification of the two labor organizations.

In its report to the AFL convention the Council declared:

"We believe that this is the first and primary requirement which should be met. 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 American Federation of Labor and the CIO favor the establishment of organizational unity immediately, and the termination of strife, division, hatred and bitterness.

"The Executive Council stands ready to carry out the commitments it has made in favor of organizational unity within the ranks of labor, and to join in laying the foundation for the establishment of such a united movement and to honestly and sincerely work out the details incidental to the creation and establishment of such a united labor movement."

The Council's report delved into the history of prior negotiations between committees representing the AFL and the CIO, and charged the CIO with misrepresenting the terms of a resolution adopted last May. The resolution stated that "it is the unanimous opinion of the representatives of the CIO and the AFL that organic unity should be established within the American Labor Movement." The Council said:

"This declaration can only be interpreted as meaning that the establishment of a solidified labor movement is a primary requirement to the development of co-operation and united action in the legislative, economic and industrial fields.

"Proceeding upon this assumption a communication dated July 16, 1947, was sent to the President of the CIO in which there was expressed the willingness and desire of the committee representing the Executive Council to meet again for the purpose of carrying out the declaration made at the meeting on May 2, 1947, as herein quoted. The committee understood this to mean that inasmuch as all had unanimously agreed that organic unity should be established within the labor movement, that the realization of this objective would now be our united purpose, that we would now proceed to lay the foundation for the establishment of or-

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(In San Francisco, AFL President William Green heralded the NLRB decision as an AFL victory. Commenting on the board's action, he said: "The decision sustains our position. The autonomous status of AFL affiliated unions has now been fully recognized. Each union may now decide if it wishes to process cases before the NLRB.")

The NLRB's majority decision was signed by three members: Chairman Paul Herzog, and members John M. Houston and James J. Reynolds. A separate concurring opinion was filed by member Abe Murdock.

The only dissenter was member J. Copeland Gray.

The majority opinion said the requirement that all top AFL and CIO officers sign the Communist affidavits did not accomplish the fundamental purpose of Congress which was "to eliminate Communist influence from the labor movement of the United States."

"Are Communists," the board asked, "likely to be eliminated from positions of influence in the labor movement by our barring those local and international unions that are in full compliance . . . merely because certain officers or a parent organization over whose status they have only the most remote control may choose not to sign the required affidavits?"

"We think not."

The majority said that "in the absence of a clear expression of legislative intent to the contrary," they could only conclude that "Congress could not have deliberately intended 'national or international organization' to include the two great national federations."

In his concurring opinion, Murdock said the law was fuzzy on the issue, but "where there are two possible interpretations of the scope of those filing requirements, clearly we should adopt that interpretation which will serve the general purpose of the act rather than the one which will defeat its basic purpose."

The test case before the National Labor Relations Board arose as the result of a ruling by Ross Madden, Regional Director of the board in Baltimore dismissing a petition for certification of bargaining representatives which had been filed by Local No. 1215 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, in the matter of Northern Virginia Broadcasters, Inc., a company operating radio station WABL in Arlington, Va.

The petition for certification was filed July 17, 1947. A consent election was scheduled for September 3, 1947, but was postponed by Regional Director Madden because although the local union and the IBEW had complied with all filing requirements under the Taft-Hartley law, the

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