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## AFL Union Heads To Set Up Active Political Campaign

CONFERENCE CALLED TO ORGANIZE AFL'S NEW  
NEW POLITICAL UNIT

San Francisco.—Carrying out the mandate of the 66th annual AFL convention, the Executive Council announced that a meeting of all national and international union presidents has been scheduled for December 5th and 6th in Washington for the purpose of organizing "Labor's Educational and Political League."

Establishment of the league was voted unanimously by the convention as a means of combating the Taft-Hartley law. Its purpose is three-fold:

1. To see that union members go to the polls in 1948.
2. To make known to union members the meaning of the economic and political policies of the American Federation of Labor and the evil effects of the vicious Taft-Hartley measure.
3. To bring about the defeat at the polls of labor's foes in Congress and the various state legislatures and to elect those men who will give labor a square deal.

Following an Executive Council session, AFL President William Green said the meeting of union chiefs was called in order to discuss and formulate definite plans for the league concerning its organization and methods of operation. The convention left such details to the union officials and merely authorized the establishment of the league as a weapon to be used by the AFL in the coming crucial political battles of 1948.

At a press conference, Mr. Green said the Executive Council discussed the methods of financing required to underwrite the AFL's coming educational and political campaign, but set no goal for the amount of money required.

The council was of the opinion, he said, that regular AFL funds could be used within the meaning of the Taft-Hartley law for the purpose of carrying on the educational aspects of the campaign. This embraces the task of acquainting the workers with AFL policies and explaining how the provisions of the law adversely affect union activities.

In regard to the political phase, Mr. Green declared the council decided that necessary funds should be raised by voluntary contributions on the part of union members and friends of the labor movement. Without stating any specific sum, Mr. Green said it was expected that the workers would respond generously to any request for voluntary contributions to be used for the purpose of defeating at the polls all members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley law.

In another action by the Executive Council Mr. Green was authorized to confer with participants in the Hollywood jurisdictional dispute in an attempt to reach a satisfactory solution to that question.

No action was taken by the council on the jurisdictional questions at issue between District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America and other AFL affiliates.

**UNION BENEFIT PAYMENTS  
TOPPED \$2 MILLION IN '46**

San Francisco.—The Executive Council reported a new record payment of \$52,247,761 in various benefits to members of the standard national, international, and local unions affiliated with the AFL.

This total, disbursed during the year 1946, would have been larger had all unions submitted complete data to the AFL for incorporation in the final report.

Benefits paid included those for death, sickness, unemployment, old age, disability, and for other miscellaneous purposes according to the specific provisions of the benefit plans adopted by the various unions.

### FIRST BARGAINING ELECTION SCHEDULED UNDER NEW LAW

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union will participate in the first collective bargaining election directed by the National Labor Relations Board under the Taft-Hartley law.

In ordering the election, the NLRB acted upon a petition filed by the union after the employer refused to recognize it until it had been certified by the board.

The election to be held within 30 days, will be among the unlicensed personnel of vessels operated by Cities Service Oil Company of Pennsylvania (marine division) in New York City. Three hundred employees are eligible to vote. They will decide whether they wish to be represented by the Seafarers Union.

The union's petition for an election was heard by a hearing officer. The Taft-Hartley Act bans the former practice of certifying unions by cardcheck where the parties agree to such a procedure after a petition has been filed. It also bans conduct of an election prior to hearing, where there appear to be no major issues or substantial objections.

Labor's claim that the new procedure for hearings in all cases prior to elections is a time-wasting provision seems to have been borne out. The union's petition was filed prior to August 22, 1947, the effective date of the new law.

## NLRB Forms Policy On Cases Filed Before Passage Of Labor Law

BOARD RULES UNION'S ELIGIBILITY STATUS  
GOVERNS CASES

Washington, D. C.—In a precedent-setting decision the National Labor Relations Board refused to order an employer to bargain with a union in a case arising before the Taft-Hartley law went into effect unless the union is eligible to use the board's machinery under the new law.

The board's order was the first issued on a backlog of unfair labor practice cases which were started prior to August 22, when the new act became fully operative.

Pending are 225 unfair labor practice cases which were heard before August 22 and are awaiting decision. The ruling, therefore, has widespread significance.

In order to become eligible, union leaders must swear they are not Communists and must submit financial and organizational data to the Labor Department as required by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The Marshall & Bruce Co., Nashville, Tenn., was ordered to bargain with the AFL Bookbinders Union, if officers of the latter sign the non-Communist affidavits and otherwise comply with the act in 30 days.

Chairman Paul M. Herzog, members James J. Reynolds, Jr., and J. Copeland Gray issued the 3-to-2 majority decision on the Tennessee case. All five members agreed that the board has the power to dispose of the cases

### LABOR DEPARTMENT SETS PUBLIC HEARING ON HAZARDOUS OCCUPATION ORDER

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach scheduled a public hearing for December 3 in Washington to consider extending coverage of Hazardous Occupations Order No. 4 to include most occupations in the logging of pulpwood, chemical wood, cordwood, fence posts, and similar woods not now subject to the 18-year age minimum under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Interested parties may appear in person, or may file briefs or statements which will be made a part of the record of the hearing.

Issued by the Secretary under the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the effect of a hazardous occupations order is to raise the minimum age for employment from 16 to 18 years in occupations found upon investigation to be particularly hazardous for minors. Hazardous Occupations Order 4, which became effective in 1941, established a minimum age of 18 years in saw-timber logging and sawmilling occupations, but did not apply to occupations in the logging of pulpwood, etc.

Six other Hazardous Occupations Orders have been issued since the basic minimum wage, overtime and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act went into effect in 1938. Issued after investigation and study of the industries concerned, these orders establishing 18 years as the minimum age for employment deal with occupations in plants manufacturing explosives; occupations of motor vehicle driver and helper; coal-mining; operation of power-driven woodworking machines; occupations involving exposure to radio-active substances; operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

### HINES ON AFL VETERANS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the appointment of Lewis G. Hines, AFL national legislative representative, to the AFL's Veterans Committee.

Mr. Hines takes the place on the committee formerly held by the late Robert J. Watt.

## Seeks Quick Legislation To Retard Inflation

Washington, D. C.—President Truman declared he will ask Congress to take "timely and forthright action" to alleviate the double-barreled problems of high prices at home and hunger and cold abroad.

In a radio address to the American people explaining his decision to call a special session of Congress for November 17, Mr. Truman said the other alternative would be to wait "until depression caught up with us" at which time "other democratic nations would lose hope and become easy victims of totalitarian aggression."

"Our domestic prosperity is endangered by the threat of inflation," the President declared. "The peace of the world is endangered by hunger and cold in other lands."

Calling for prompt congressional legislation, Mr. Truman said "the need is too pressing, the results of delay too grave, for congressional action to wait until the next regular session in January."

The President did not disclose the measures he intends to ask of Congress, but indicated that when the special session convenes he will propose a definite program to combat inflation. He emphasized the seriousness of the situation and traced the plight of many of the nation's citizens who are caught in the squeeze between high prices and insufficient income. He said:

"We now have, and will continue to have enough food and clothing and other goods in the United States to meet our needs, but excessively high prices mean that these goods are not being distributed wisely and fairly. High prices ration the essentials of life by squeezing out the less fortunate of our citizens. We can meet this problem only by bringing prices into line with the incomes of our people."

"The American people now have a compelling need for protection from the dangers of price inflation and the rising cost of living. They recognize this need and are asking for the protection to which they are entitled. The government must assume a larger share of responsibility for putting an end to excessive prices and the dangers and hardships which accompany them. For this purpose, prompt enactment by the Congress of comprehensive legislation is necessary."

Turning to a discussion of the foreign aid requested of Congress, the President reiterated this nation's policy of assisting free men and free nations to recover from the ravages of war. He said:

"We follow that policy for the purpose of securing the peace and well-being of the world. It is nonsense to say that we seek dominance over any other nation. We believe in freedom, and we are doing all we can to support free men and free governments throughout the world."

Mr. Truman praised the Marshall Plan as one which "presents great hope for economic security and peace" in western Europe. He indicated, however, that it cannot be implemented for several months and that there is vital need for immediate aid.

"A period of crisis is now at hand. The perils of hunger and cold in Europe make this winter a decisive time in history. All the progress of reconstruction and all the promise of future plans are endangered. If European nations are to continue their recovery, they must get through this winter without

(Please Turn to Page 4)

### J. J. O'LEARY, UMW OFFICIAL DIES OF HEART ATTACK

San Francisco.—John J. O'Leary, vice-president of the United Mine Workers of America, died of a heart attack in St. Luke's Hospital here. He was 66 years old.

Mr. O'Leary attended the AFL convention here and was stricken with a heart attack two days after completion of the sessions. He was taken to the hospital, where he remained until his death, which resulted from a third attack.

Mr. O'Leary rose to prominence in organized labor after a humble start as a miner. In his youth he worked in the mines near Pittsburgh as his father, George O'Leary, had before him.

He carried a union card since 1898 and first became a union official in 1910, when he was elected to the board of District 5, UMW, which embraces most of the Pittsburgh soft coal area. In 1916 Mr. O'Leary succeeded Philip Murray, present CIO head, as a member of the UMW international executive board.

He held this post until 1942, when he was personally chosen by Mr. Lewis to serve the unexpired term of Mr. Murray.

### HIGH PRICES REDUCE AUTO, HOUSE PURCHASES

Washington, D. C.—Many consumers who planned to buy automobiles or homes within the next five years have abandoned their plans for at least 12 months "because of high prices."

This was revealed in a survey conducted by the Federal Reserve Board on the financial condition and buying plans of consumers.

The survey, said, however, that with respect to other items such as washing machines, refrigerators, furniture and the like, the public is carrying out its intended purchases regardless of prices.

## Convention Urged To Support Friends And Oppose All Enemies

Delegates to the AFL convention heard a strong plea for reaffirmation of the Gompers policy of supporting or opposing political candidates on the basis of their attitude toward labor irrespective of their party affiliation.

Harry Stevenson, president of the Molders and Foundry Workers' Union of North America, in an address to the convention, urged every AFL international officer "to go back to the local unions and see that they take part" in an active campaign to get out the vote and to pick candidates on the basis of their friendliness toward labor's cause. He related the experience of Local 146 of the Molders' Union in San Francisco.

"I find that our local union right here in San Francisco, Local 146, some time ago appointed a special committee to interview all of the members to make sure that they were registered. They came across some who had not voted for eight or nine years, but I am happy to say that through the work of the local union here, every member of Local 146 is registered 100 per cent."

Mr. Stevenson called upon the delegates to forget whether "we are Republicans or Democrats" and unite their efforts in the campaign to fight the Taft-Hartley law. He related an experience he had in connection with the political campaign in eastern Pennsylvania. He said:

"I was down in the eastern Pennsylvania district just two weeks before the election in the eighth district, where they reported so much about defeating the Democratic candidate in that district.

"While I was there, I found that a letter had been given out to the workers in different factories signed by the Bucks County Republican Committee of Doyleston, Pa.; Mr. Harry A. Clayton, chairman; Mrs. Clarence J. Buckman, vice-chairman; and they gave out this letter, which states that 85 per cent of labor does not know what is in the Taft-Hartley bill.

"Then they handed out this long letter that they gave to the workers. They sneaked into the shop at noon time, because I know in the particular foundry I got this in, the company had no knowledge it was given out. Some of the things that are said in this letter are as follows: "To the Workers: You can't be fired by your union under the Taft-Hartley Act so long as you pay your initiation, pay your dues."

"Listen to this: 'The union can't have you laid off because they don't like your race or your religion.'"

"That is put out by the Republican Party. Then they say again: 'When you join a movement to smash the Taft-Hartley Act before it has had a fair trial and to steer the government out of trying to enforce it, you are putting another man's handcuffs on your wrist.'"

"That is the propaganda that is being put out by the Republican Party."

## Truman Calls A Special Session Of Congress Nov. 17

"COMPELLING REASONS" LEAD TO SUMMONS FOR  
CALLING CONGRESS IN SESSION.

Washington, D. C.—President Truman summoned Congress to meet in special session on November 17 to consider the twin problems of emergency foreign aid and domestic inflation.

In his proclamation calling for the session, Mr. Truman cited these problems as his two "compelling reasons" and announced that he would make a radio address to the nation explaining in more detail the present situation at home and abroad.

### DEBT ESTIMATED AT \$2,050 PER CAPITA

Washington, D. C.—The combined total of public and private debt in the United States dropped during 1946 for the first time since 1931, according to a statement issued by the Commerce Department.

The 15 billion dollar reduction leaves the total debt in the neighborhood of \$393 1-2 billion, or \$2,050 for each man, woman and child, the statement said.

Commerce Department figures attributed about \$150 billion of the total to debts of individuals and corporations. Of the public debt of about \$243 billion, Uncle Sam owes some \$230 billion and state and local governments make up the remaining \$13.6 billions owed.

The department said that private debt increased about \$8 billion in 1946, but was more than offset by a reduction of \$23 billion in the debt owed by the Federal Government.

At its recent convention in San Francisco, the American Federation of Labor noted the gravity of the need for foreign aid and for action to combat the nation's present high prices. The convention pledged the AFL to support the Government's voluntary campaign to alleviate these situations on an equal sacrifice basis.

Mr. Truman said that congressional action on a foreign relief appropriation could not wait until the regular session of Congress in January because available funds were sufficient to keep France provided with food and fuel only until the end of the year and because Italy would require substantial aid before then.

Action by Congress also was necessary "to put an end to the continued rise in prices," the President said. He proposed to recommend "suitable measures" for dealing with high prices and inflation when the Congress convenes in special session.

The President's discussion on inflation was emphasized by the latest figures on the cost of living released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The dizzy spiral in the cost of foods and services purchased by moderate income families has reached a level 25 per cent above that prevailing on V-J Day, August 14, 1945.

Food, which accounted for 33.5 per cent of the family budget in August 1939, accounted for 40.8 per cent in August, 1945, and today nearly 44 per cent, according to BLS figures.

President Truman placed at \$642,000,000 the amount of the stop-gap appropriation for which the special session was primarily summoned. He told the leaders of Congress about \$375,000,000 was needed for France and \$285,000 for Italy for food and fuel purchases through March 31 of next year.

Excerpts from the President's statement on the need for calling the special session follow:

"There are two compelling reasons for convening the Congress at an early date.

"It is urgently necessary for the Congress to take legislative action designed to put an end to the continued rise in prices, which is causing hardship to millions of American families and endangering the prosperity and welfare of the entire nation. When the Congress meets, I shall recommend to it suitable measures for dealing with inflation, high prices and the high cost of living.

"It is also necessary for this Government to take adequate steps to meet the crisis in western Europe, where certain countries have exhausted their financial resources and are unable to purchase the food and fuel which are essential if their people are to survive the coming winter.

"It now appears that the minimum needs of France can be met with present funds only until the end of December, and that it will enter the new year without funds to pay for essential imports. Italy's needs are even more immediate, for Italy will require substantial assistance before the end of this year. Moreover, it appears that ad-

(Continued on Page 4)