

Labor Law Restrictions Made To Wreck Labor

Albany, N. Y.—Harold C. Hanover, secretary-treasurer of the New York State Federation of Labor, charged that enactment of the Taft-Hartley law is convincing evidence that there is under way in this country a powerful, well-organized and adequately-resourced movement to destroy the institution of organized labor.

Mr. Hanover spoke before the Social Missions Institute of the Eastern Conference of the United Lutheran Conference of the United Lutheran Synod of New York on the general topic, "What Labor Expects of the Church."

As examples of the evidence of the anti-labor campaign, Hanover referred to the provisions of the law dealing with strikes and the closed shop. On the strike question, he declared the law takes the first step toward the ultimate banning of all strikes on the part of labor. He said:

"Under its terms, a government agency is authorized to declare that a projected strike will jeopardize the public interest and welfare and upon this declaration it can go into court and ask an injunction to prevent the strike.

"It requires little imagination to realize how this vast power can be used to nullify labor's right to strike by the arbitrary determination that every strike threatens the public interest and welfare. This is not to say power will be abused in this fashion. I am merely pointing out its potentialities.

"By reinstating the injunction, the first step has been taken to abridge the right to strike. Abridge today, abolish tomorrow has been the historic formula throughout history of those who mouthed freedom, but practiced tyranny."

Turning to the closed shop, Hanover denounced the propaganda which has branded it as "un-American and a denial of the individual's right to work." He likened the closed shop to practices in existence for profession-

al men in the business world. "Each of these has had special training in his profession. The law recognizes that this training peculiarly fits the physician, lawyer, and clergyman for his work. It protects the effort, the sacrifice, yes, the investment he has made to acquire this training by making these professions virtually closed shops, denied to all individuals except those who have qualified by training and met certain standards.

"The closed shop in plant or factory is nothing more than the extension of this same protection over the effort, sacrifice and investment of the worker.

"Under the Taft-Hartley law, the first step has been taken to destroy this protection for the worker. Closed shops in existence may continue, but new ones are banned, except under certain conditions."

On the position of the church, Mr. Hanover said:

"The church can and should actively interest itself in the cause of the millions. It should familiarize itself with the historical background of labor's struggle for social and economic equality. It should view the attempts to destroy labor's gains as threats to itself, because their end result will be the encouragement and growth of Communism by the class division they breed, the lower living standards that will follow.

"These attitudes, implemented by active interest, are what labor expects of the church."

30-HOUR WEEK PACT SIGNED

Louisville, Ky.—The first contract in this area to provide a 30-hour week has been signed between an AFL federal local of enamelers and the American Radiator Standard & Sanitary Co. Five hundred workers are covered.

Have you sent in your subscription to the Journal for the new year? If not do so today. We need your support.

Last Polio Health Hint: Avoid Sudden Chilling!

Sudden chilling such as plunging into cold water on a very hot day should be avoided as the sixth and final health precaution that should be observed in the polio season—June through September—the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis cautions through its local chapter.

Scientific research financed by March of Dimes funds has shown that when laboratory animals exposed to the polio virus were suddenly chilled, twice as many developed acute and paralyzing attacks of the disease as did a control group which had been protected from sudden temperature changes. Therefore, take no chances. To be on the safe side avoid sudden chilling, the National Foundation advises.



CONGRESS URGED TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE TO 75 CENTS

(Continued From Page 1) \$500,000, and employes engaged in industrialized agriculture.

Further, Mason asked Congress to broaden the language of the act to provide coverage for all employes in industries "affecting commerce." The original phrase "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce," is more restrictive, he said, and has deprived over a million persons of the protection afforded by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Summing up, Mr. Mason reiterated the AFL's faith in the principle of minimum wage legislation as "society's judgment of the lowest rate for which an individual should be permitted to work in our economy."

"The time is long overdue for Congress to reassert its faith in this principle by setting a minimum wage commensurate with existing economic conditions, by revising the act to provide for a more equitable enforcement, and by expanding the minimum wage principle until eventually it covers all workers to whom it can be legally applied.

DOHERTY URGES RAISES FOR LETTER CARRIERS

(Continued From Page 1) feature of the right to strike or engage in collective bargaining is stoical indifference."

Citing the recent change in the Postal Laws and Regulations incorporating the Taft-Hartley law's ban against strikes by Government employes, Mr. Doherty explained that the Letter Carriers Association "willingly forfeited, that 'right' long before any lawmaker reduced a prohibition against it to writing." He added:

"We have always believed that when a person enters the Postal Service, just as when he enters the Army or Navy of the United States, he should acknowledge no allegiance to any other power or outside authority that was greater than or above the United States. From the very inception of the NALC in 1889 that policy has been subscribed to; during the course of the years it has repeatedly been reiterated. We herewith affirm it to be the existing policy of the National Association of Letter Carriers."

U. S. LABOR PRAISED BY AFL'S WILLIAM GREEN

(Please Turn to Page 4) good sense and good judgment of our members and we believe that when all the facts are made clear to them they are perfectly capable of judging for themselves whom to support and whom to oppose in the political elections.

"The political conditions to which the workers of Germany were forced to submit under the Nazi regime would be intolerable to American workers. The German workers never had the option to vote "no." The Nazis permitted only one political party after they seized power—their own. No worker was allowed to oppose it except at the risk of his life.

"Totalitarian government, depending as it does on force rather than voluntary support of the people, does not dare to permit the existence of opposition nor the expression of criticism.

"These are some of the reasons why the free workers of America will never under any circumstances accept any form of totalitarianism."

NEW YORK FIRMS FACE VERY SERIOUS CHARGES

(Continued From Page 1) with each other, to choke off competition from other investment bankers, to block sales to the highest bidder, to get around State and Federal regulations, to promote big stock and bond issues so they could make fees on their sale and to draw the business of buying and retailing stocks and bonds into a single market where they had an advantage over others.

The court was asked to break up the alleged conspiracy by ordering the bankers to decide whether they would advise a company that wanted to issue stocks and bonds, or would handle the issue, by ordering several groups of banking houses to stop forming pools to handle security issues jointly, by ordering the bankers not to place their officers and agents on the boards of directors of companies for which they handled securities and by ordering the bankers not to make agreements to kill competition.

CAMDEN AFL WORKERS TO GET 5-CENT HOURLY BOOST

Philadelphia, Pa.—Some 500 employes at the R. M. Hollingshead Corp. plant in Camden have been awarded an increase in wages of 5-cents-an-hour across the board and a two-year contract providing for reopening of wage and vacation discussions on August 15, 1948. The wage increase was retroactive to October 15, when a contract with Local 22130, Automotive Chemical Products Union (AFL) expired.

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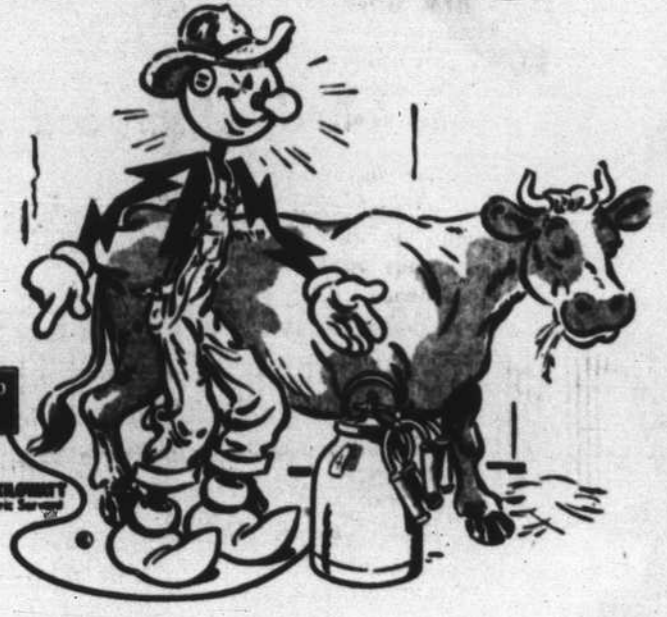
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