

# Teamsters Obtain Group Insurance Policies In South

## BLS CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX AT PEAK; SETS NEW HIGH FOR THIRD MONTH

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that its consumers' price index, computed as of August 15, hit a new high for the third consecutive month.

The index stood at 160.3 per cent of the 1935-39 average, 11.2 per cent above a year ago, 20.3 per cent above June, 1946, and 62.6 per cent over August, 1939, level.

(By way of explanation, the BLS consumers' price index generally measures prices paid each month by middle-income families for quantities of selected goods, rents and services which those families actually purchased in the period 1934-36. The items priced amounted to about 70 per cent of the expenditures made by city families with an average income of \$1,524 in the period 1934-36.)

A rise of 1.8 per cent in retail prices of foods was the chief contributor to the increase in the total index. The usual seasonal increase for the period covered by the survey is about 0.3 per cent. Preliminary figures for the period up to September 15 show a further actual rise of from 3 to 4 per cent, as against a normal seasonal increase of 1.3 per cent. Food prices now represent more than 43 per cent of the total index.

Residential rents continued to rise under the modified rent controls of the Housing and Rent Act. In the 7 large cities surveyed in August, 12 per cent of the tenants had their rents increased during the preceding month. On the average, rents increased by 1.1 per cent between July and August. Average rent increases from early spring to August ranged from 0.4 per cent in Washington, D. C., to 4.2 per cent in Memphis and 5.4 per cent in Birmingham.

The one bright spot in the index was the lower prices recorded for some housefurnishings including living room furniture, bedding, radios and curtains. This decline was partially offset, however, by rising prices for refrigerators, washing machines, and stoves.

Montgomery, Ala.—Members of Local 905 of the Teamsters International Union obtained group life insurance coverage under the master policy negotiated between the Southern Conference of Teamsters and the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California.

Under the terms of the policy each individual member of the union in good standing received insurance coverage in the amount of \$500.

The idea of a master policy covering all teamster groups in the Southern Conference stemmed from a survey of insurance systems used by the various locals in the South. The survey showed a great need for standardization to effect financial savings while increasing the insurance coverage available for union members. A committee which conducted the survey recommended that efforts be made to achieve such standardization and undertook to discuss the matter with several of the large private insurance companies.

The uniform plan adopted is basically simple. It provides that each local union within the 12 southern states has the privilege of entering into a contract with the insurance company for whatever amount of insurance protection it desires to obtain for its members.

The master policy provides the following:

Regardless of age or physical condition, each active member of the union shall receive an individual insurance certificate.

All members of the union in good standing are immediately covered and remain covered as long as they maintain their standing.

Each member, when and if dropping out of the union, has the privilege of converting his policy to an individual policy offered by the company without the necessity of taking any medical examination.

A member becoming totally disabled before reaching the age of 60 has his insurance continued as long as he remains disabled.

## DESSER GETS POST WITH ARBITRATION GROUP

New York City—The American Arbitration Association announced the appointment of Abraham A. Desser as the new director of its Labor-Management Division.

Mr. Desser served as a former AFL organizer and was at one time with the International Ladies Garment Workers in the same capacity. Prior to his recent appointment by the American Arbitration Association, he was in charge of collective bargaining research for the National Industrial Conference Board.

## THE MARCH OF LABOR



WHILE LIVING COSTS WERE RISING ALMOST 50% IN THE U.S. BETWEEN 1937 AND 1947, CANADA HELD THE INCREASE TO 26%

THE COST OF GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S. IS ABOUT FIFTY BILLION DOLLARS YEARLY—INCLUDING FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL AGENCIES. PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II THE COST WAS ABOUT TEN BILLION.

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## UN Group Acts On Trade Union Rights

Lake Success, N. Y.—The position taken by the American Federation of Labor was upheld by a 31-to-5 vote of the United Nations General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee approving a resolution calling for the preparation of world-wide principles on trade union rights.

The resolution, adopted over the objections of the Soviet-dominated states, endorsed the action taken by the International Labor Conference last July when it decided to prepare one or more international treaties on trade union rights and report on them to the Economic and Social Council.

The AFL strongly supported the activities of the ILO and through its representative, the late Robert J. Watt, American workers delegate to the International Labor Conference, participated in the formulation and ultimate passage by the conference of the resolutions on freedom of association.

Consideration of the matter by the ILO, acting as a specialized agency of the United Nations, came following the submission to the UN by the World Federation of Trade Unions of a request for action on trade union guarantees. The AFL countered with its own plan for trade union rights which included action by the ILO. Thus the action by the UN committee in approving the ILO's decision was a complete victory for the AFL and represented a rebuff for the WFTU which is under the domination of Soviet Russia.

Approval of the resolution, which was prepared by a 15-nation subcommittee, was given after the committee members had voted to reject a series of Yugoslav, Czechoslovak and Argentine amendments.

Supported by the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia sought to delete any endorsement or approval of the proposed ILO principles, contending, first, that not all the nations had agreed to accept these principles and, second, that the General Assembly was not being asked to adopt these principles at the present time.

Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union argued that the WFTU should be mentioned since that organization had originally asked the Economic and Social Council to take action on trade union guarantees. Referring the matter to the ILO conference, the delegates contended, had by-passed the WFTU.

Objecting to this view, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, United States delegate, held that if the WFTU were mentioned specifically, all other labor organs, such as the American Federation of Labor, also should be included. As the specialized agency of the

United Nations, the ILO represents all labor groups, she added.

In opposition, Valerian A. Zorin, Soviet Union delegate, argued that the ILO principles would set forth the rights of employers and workers' groups alike. It is the labor groups, not the owners, that need a voice, he declared.

## HEALTH INSURANCE AID TO FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF AFL'S UPHOLSTERS UNION

Philadelphia.—Hospital insurance was extended to the wives of members of the Upholsters' International Union, AFL, and their children between the ages of three months and 18 years as an added benefit to contracts with more than 1200 firms.

Extension of the UIU Social Security Program, as the health and death insurance for covered members is called, provides for hospital benefits of \$4 a day for a maximum of 31 days for each disability and up to 10 days for maternity cases.

A further expansion of the program was envisioned at headquarters of the union here by President Sal B. Hoffmann, who praised the co-operation of employers in consenting to the widening of benefits and of the membership in keeping down the loss ratio.

Under the program, employers contribute three per cent of the wages earned by members under contract, with no added charge being made for the increased benefits.

The plan, which the union seeks to extend to all firms under contract with it, provides for death benefits of \$500 three months after being put into effect and \$1000 after one year.

In case of illness or accident, covered members receive 60 per cent of their wages, with medical, surgical and hospital care also paid for.

The program first was put in effect in Philadelphia in May, 1944, covering 1000 members of an upholsters' local. Since then the casket, canvas, decorative and related industries employing members of the union.

## 56 AFL UNIONS FILED DATA UNDER LABOR LAW

Washington, D. C.—Fifty-six international unions affiliated with the AFL and 2,034 other AFL affiliated unions were included in a list released by the Secretary of Labor of unions which have filed organizational and financial reports under the Taft-Hartley law.

The list of filings as of the close of business on October 22 covered a total of 2,995 unions.

## ZANDER CALLS FOR CC-OPS TO ACT AS A DISCIPLINARY FORCE

(Continued From Page 1) it expresses a social point of view, in all the work it does which is in line with ours.

"So I offer to you that if we could build this movement—and we can, the little people in our movement can build it here—we would have a new force, a new power. We would have aroused a sleeping giant and enlisted him in our cause if we would but do that job."

"I give you this brief description of power which is available to us, the power of our seven and a half million members as buyers of the goods of this country, the power which we have as purchasers and consumers. I offer you that power because of its disciplinary force, because it can help us in carving out parts of the power which has stood against us in Congress and in the state legislatures of the country."

"What we need is membership support, the purchasing - power support, the investment-of-funds support, membership - participation support. We need that kind of support in every community of the country, and then we will have put ourselves in a position to employ this force, along with our trade union power, to take action against those who have been so successful in their acts against us."

## FEDERAL JOBS DECLINE AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Washington, D. C.—Federal employment in the United States declined 16,995 persons to a total of 1,766,650 during the month of September.

Lower employment rolls were reported by over half of the federal agencies. The Department of the Army was the only government agency to report any sizeable increase in its staff.

The downward trend during September was a continuation of a gradual drop in employment registered over the past 12 months. During that period federal payrolls have decreased by 352,333 employees.

## GALVIN, BAKERY WORKERS OFFICER DIES IN AIR CRASH

New York City.—William A. Galvin, vice-president of the AFL's Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union and president of the Biscuit and Cracker Workers Union, Local 405, was a passenger on the ill-fated United Airlines transport plane which crashed and burned near Bryce Canyon, Utah.

Mr. Galvin, 40, was en route home to Manhasset, Long Island, after attending the AFL convention held in San Francisco.

## HOTEL WORKERS UNION SETS UP ANTI-RED UNIT

New York City.—Delegates from 175 locals of the AFL's Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union decided to set up a permanent organization to combat what they termed Communist domination of some locals.

The new group, to be known as the Official Second District Conference, is to operate by educational, legal and organizational means, it was announced at the end of a two-day meeting of delegates. The district includes New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

## AFL RETAIL FOOD CLERKS RATIFY NEW AGREEMENT

Los Angeles, Calif.—Food market workers of Local 770, Retail Clerks International Association (AFL) approved a new 20-month contract here providing pay raises

of \$2.50 a week and an additional 50 cents weekly each time the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics cost-of-living index goes up one point.

The new contract, which will increase members' purchasing power by \$1,300,000 annually, covers 10,000 of the local's 15,000 membership. The new pact will run until September, 1949.

## JOB OPENINGS INCREASE

New York City.—An increase in the number of job openings in New York State for the month of September was reported by Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner.

Mr. Corsi said an 18 per cent increase in calls by employers for workers and a 10 per cent drop in the number of job seekers applying to the New York State Employment Service were favorable aspects of the employment situation during the month as compared with the situation existing in August.

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