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## A. F. OF L. TO SUPPORT NEW LABOR GROUP WILLIAM GREEN SAYS TAFT NOT CONCERNED OVER INFLATION TREND

### ASSERTS TAFT'S POLICY ON FOREIGN AID WILL WRECK PROGRAM

Milwaukee, Wis.—AFL President William Green charged that Senator Robert Taft displays not "the slightest concern over the alarming increases in the cost of living" and advocates a policy which would undermine and destroy the foreign-aid program.

In an address before the fifth biennial convention of the AFL's International Union of Automobile Workers of America, Mr. Green branded as "ridiculous" Senator Taft's assertion that the President's anti-inflation program seeks to invoke "totalitarian methods" in an effort to solve the nation's economic problems. He said:

"Such charges are ridiculous. They are nothing more or less than campaign propaganda. Realizing that the American people are naturally reluctant to see the restoration—even in part—of wartime controls, the reactionary strategists are brazenly trying to make political capital for the 1948 campaign out of the critical situation in which our nation finds itself.

"I challenge anyone to read Senators Taft's intemperate statements on the President's message to Congress and find anywhere in them the slightest concern over the alarming and continuing increases in the cost of living.

"Senator Taft is not worried about the high cost of living because the wealthy interests whom he represents in Congress are not worried about it. To them higher prices mean higher profits, already at a record peak. The only thing Senator Taft is concerned about is tax reduction—the kind of tax reduction which would bring substantial relief to those in the high-income brackets and place the heavy burden of taxation on those least able to pay."

On the question of foreign aid, Mr. Green said the Senator professes to be in agreement with the President while advocating "a policy of too little and too late, which would have the eventual effect of undermining and destroying the foreign aid program."

"We have found many instances of his underhanded cunning in the tricky provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act," Mr. Green added.

Calling upon labor to exert itself in the approaching election year, Mr. Green declared that labor must face the fact that Senator Taft and his "fellow stooges" or big business today occupy a dominant position in the Congress of the United States.

"We must also see the fact," the AFL leader said, "that their monstrous creation, the Taft-Hartley law, will exert a more and more oppressive stranglehold on our trade union movement in the year ahead, making it ever more difficult for organizing labor to protect the interests of the nation's workers."

Mr. Green pointed to the recent Kentucky gubernatorial election as proof that labor, mobilized for the occasion, can and will succeed against the tory reactionaries. He said:

"In that election, the Republican candidate based his entire campaign on support of the Taft-Hartley Act, the Democratic candidate, who had voted to uphold President Truman's veto of that law, sought to justify his action.

"Faced with this clear-cut issue the workers of Kentucky, under the leadership of American Federation of Labor, flocked to the polls and administered a crushing defeat to the defender of the Taft-Hartley Act. So may it be with all the apologists for the Taft-Hartley Act in the 1948 campaign.

Lester Washburn, president of the United Automobile Workers Union, keynoted the convention sessions with an address in which he named the two major problems facing the delegates. These, he said, are the need to eliminate from Congress those men who have let labor and the country down, and the urgency of getting (Please Turn to Page 3)

### ADVISORY BOARDS IN 81 AREAS RECOMMEND CONTINUED CONTROLS

Washington, D. C.—Recommendations from 49 additional local rent advisory boards calling for continued rent control in their areas, including the cities of Seattle, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Memphis, Buffalo, New Haven, Jersey City, Newark and Evansville, were received by the Office of the Housing Expediter.

In two areas in Illinois and Indiana, the Housing Expediter decontrolled rents on the basis of information submitted by the local rent advisory boards. The areas affected were Henderson County in Illinois, and Fountain County in Indiana.

Receipt of the 49 additional recommendations of local boards in 24 different states makes a total of 81 areas from which the Housing Expediter has thus far received recommendations for continuation of controls. Some of them also have reported that the general levels of rent are adequate or that the present provisions for adjustment of individual rents offer a means for elimination of inequities.

Other boards, in reporting that rent controls need to be continued for the present, have indicated that they will study the adequacy of the general level of rents and make recommendations on this matter at a later date.

Of 12 recommendations from rent advisory boards for decontrol, upon which the expediter's office has acted, seven have been approved and five disapproved. Of six actions on recommendations for increases in rent levels, two have been approved and four disapproved.

### GROUPS VOTE SUPPORT

New York City.—Representatives of 25 civic, cultural, religious and labor organizations voted to support the National Council for a Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission in efforts to obtain passage of Federal legislation against discrimination in employment.

The decision followed a day's sessions for 100 delegates under auspices of the Catholic Interracial Council, Jewish Labor Committee, Negro Labor Committee, and the Presbyterian Institute on Industrial Relations.

Minneapolis.—Minnesotians are overwhelmingly in favor of more co-operative business enterprises, according to the results of a public opinion poll conducted by the Minneapolis Tribune.

The newspaper's interviewers found that three-fourths of the farm people in the state do business with co-ops. The number of people who believe that more co-ops would be "a good thing" was twice as great as those opposing co-ops.

### UNION SHOP ELECTION BARES UNFAIR T-H LAW PROVISION

Chicago.—One of the most unjust, anti-democratic provisions of the Taft-Hartley law was sharply illustrated in a recent AFL victory in a union shop election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

This is the requirement of the law that to win such an election a union must poll a majority of all eligible voters and not simply a majority of the voters who actually cast their ballots.

Eligible voters in any election include not only employees at work, but those ill at home, those recently laid off, and those who for any reason are not available to vote on the day set for the election. Failure of any of these eligible employees to vote is a "no" vote against the union.

The election which emphasized this unfair provision of the anti-labor law involved the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers which won by a smashing vote of 1,037 to 14. It was a resounding victory for the union, but as M. F. Darling, local union president said, its main importance lies in the fact that it served to expose the basic injustice of the law.

He pointed out that on the day the election was held 16 employees were absent because of illness. Thus, the union had a potential deficit of 16 votes to overcome even before the polls opened for voting. In this particular election, the union arranged for 6 of the ill employees to be transported to the polling place by ambulance. In the case of the other 10, however, their doctors advised against any attempt on their part to participate.

One case brought to light an interesting point and one which could conceivably mean the defeat to some union at a future election. A union employee of Webster-Chicago Company, the employer concerned in the election, had a baby the day before the election. Her involuntary absence from the polls meant that her vote was counted against the union.

Joseph M. Jacobs, attorney for the union, pleaded with the NLRB examiner in charge of the election to allow her vote to be cast in the hospital under the supervision of an NLRB representative. His request was turned down.

Mr. Jacobs has sent a written protest to the NLRB's headquarters in Washington pointing out that in the event of a close election such an involuntary vote against a union might mean its defeat. It is hoped that the protest may serve to call attention to the basic injustice against labor stemming from the Taft-Hartley law itself.

### HIGH COURT RETURNS JOBS TO TWO FOREMEN

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court refused to override a decision of the National Labor Relations Board ordering the reinstatement of two foremen, despite the existence of the Taft-Hartley law.

Because the new labor law bars foremen from the class of "employees" due to the protection of the Wagner Act, the Vail Manufacturing Company of Chicago asked the Supreme Court to quash the NLRB order. The Supreme Court, however, declined to enter the dispute, leaving the labor board command effective.

### FOOD PRICES UP 3.6 PER CT. IN MONTH, BLS INDEX AT 40 PER CENT OVER JUNE, 1946

Washington, D. C.—For the 4th consecutive month retail prices for foods hit new record levels, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A 3.6 per cent rise during the month ended September 15th brought the BLS retail food price index to a level 203.5 per cent of the 1935-39 average, 40 per cent higher than in June of 1946, and 10 per cent above the June 1920 peak after World War I.

Prices advances on meat, dairy products, and eggs were responsible for most of the increase, BLS reported.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish as a group attained new highs for the fifth consecutive month, reflecting record prices established in primary markets. The largest advances were reported for pork cuts, from 5 per cent for whole ham to 17 per cent for salt pork. Lamb prices rose 5 per cent with continued short supplies. Chicken prices, which usually decline at this time of year, rose 6 per cent, because of strong consumer demand resulting from higher prices for most meats. Fresh fish prices rose 5 per cent, and pink salmon 6 per cent.

Prices of dairy products increased 6.2 per cent over the month. The price of butter jumped more than 10 cents to an average of 92 cents per pound as a result of lower production. Prices of cheese and milk rose about 3 per cent as production declined seasonally, feed costs advanced, and demand was good. Egg prices increased 11 per cent, about the usual seasonal amount for this time of year.

Prices of cereals and bakery products were 1 per cent higher than a month earlier. All items in the group showed advances, ranging from 1 per cent for flour, bread, and vanilla cookies to 6 per cent for corn meal. Coffee prices rose 3 per cent, and sugar prices increased less than 1 per cent.

Advances in retail food prices between August 15 and September 15 occurred in all of the 56 cities surveyed. Price rises ranged from 0.7 per cent in Peoria, 5.9 per cent in Wichita, with prices of meats, dairy products, and eggs advancing in all cities.

Compared with a year ago, retail food price increases varied from 12.2 per cent in Jackson to 23.7 per cent in St. Louis. Compared with August 1939 price rises ranged from 101.9 per cent in Portland, Maine, to 145.3 per cent in Memphis.

### AFL FREEZES FUND FOR CZECH UNIONS

London.—Irving Brown, the AFL's European Representative, announced that trade union officials in the United States ordered "stop payment" of American labor funds to Czechoslovakia trade unions because they feared the money might fall into Communist party hands.

An estimated \$160,000 is on deposit in a London bank, residue of a fund raised among American workers to aid the Czechoslovak resistance movement during the war. It was to be used to aid postwar restoration of Czech trade unionism.

Mr. Brown said union officials in the United States sent a joint telegram to the London bank announcing "the funds are not at the disposal of the gentlemen trying to get them." He added that "I think we have been effective in our efforts."

### NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT SETS RECORD; UNEMPLOYMENT AT NEW LOW

Washington, D. C.—Non-farm employment surged to new levels in October, Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, reported with industry producing more smoothly than at any time since the war's end.

In his monthly review of the employment situation, Mr. Clague said the Bureau of Labor Statistics figure for September showed 43,250,000 employed, a gain of more than 200,000 over the September level. The pre-Christmas rise in business activity accounted for nearly all the increase, he said.

In another sector of the economy covered by BLS data, Mr. Clague, in referring to the wage increases granted labor since V-J day, declared that price increases during the same period offset the cost war gains.

The BLS employment figures are not comparable to the Census Bureau's totals, which include agricultural employment, domestic and the self-employed. The aggregate exceeds 59,000,000.

Contributing to the record number of jobs, said Mr. Clague, were the continued heavy demand for goods, an improved flow of raw materials, a low volume of strikes, and the favorable weather which permitted this autumn's homebuilding boom to continue. October, with 92,000 homes placed under construction despite the approach of winter, ranks among the best homebuilding months on record, Mr. Clague said.

The physical volume of new construction will be about 10 per cent greater next year than this. Nearly 1,000,000 new homes are expected to be started by private builders next year, as against 860,000 this year. About 250,000 more workers will be employed by construction contractors next fall if the anticipated level of activity is reached.

A drop in unemployment to 10,700,000, the lowest point since shortly after the war's end, and the continued heavy utilization of older workers and teen-age youths, underscore the favorable employment situation, Mr. Clague said.

"Jobless among veterans fell below the half million mark for the first time since large-scale demobilization began. Less than 4 per cent of the veterans in the job market are now unemployed, as compared with almost double that ratio a year ago."

### G.I'S GET BENEFITS FOR STUDY ABROAD

Washington, D. C.—World War II veterans studying overseas under the GI bill are eligible for additional benefits under the Fulbright Act, the Veterans Administration announced.

This act authorized use of United States credit in foreign currencies accumulated from the sale of war surplus property to help college student veterans who wished to study abroad.

Statute prohibited veteran students from receiving Federal aid simultaneously from two sources.

The agency held, however, that grants under the Fulbright Act were not affected because the funds would not come from United States Government appropriations.

### GREEN NAMES DELEGATES TO LIMA CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 10

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the intention of the AFL to participate in the formation of a new international federation of labor composed of democratic trade union organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Green named an AFL delegate to attend a conference in Lima, Peru, on January 10th at which representatives from about 20 North and South American nations will meet to establish the new organization. The AFL delegates will be:

Phil Hannah, Secretary of the Ohio Federation of Labor and former Assistant Secretary of Labor; James M. Duffy, President of the National Brotherhood of Operative Pottery; and Patrick E. Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Accompanying the AFL delegates to the conference will be Serafine Romualdi, the AFL's Latin-American Representative.

Commenting upon the AFL's decision to participate, Mr. Green said:

"For many years the American Federation of Labor has been interested in developing friendship and fraternity between the free and democratic trade union movements of this country and those of our neighbor nations in North and South America.

"Right now, it is especially important that such a federation be formed. Those who sponsor the democratic way of life must unite to make their voice heard and to counteract the dangerous propaganda of totalitarian agents.

"Before the United States entered the last war, strenuous efforts were made to undermine the prestige of our country in Latin America by the foremost spokesmen for Moscow in this hemisphere, Vincente Lombardo Toledano. He formed an organization known as the Latin American Confederation of Labor and through it issued a constant barrage of propaganda accusing the United States of imperialism. These damaging activities continued until Hitler attacked Soviet Russia and then ceased abruptly.

"Recently Mr. Toledano and his so-called confederation have taken up again where they left off. They are now busily engaged in smearing the United States throughout South America and Central America and they are also trying to lure the workers of our neighboring countries into the Communist camp.

"We believe the new organization to be established at Lima will be able to puncture this propaganda effectively and will succeed in making a much-needed contribution to the economic betterment of the entire hemisphere by serving as a clearing house for information on labor trends and by promoting the improvement of labor standards generally.

"We expect that labor organizations from about 20 American nations will take part in the Lima conference and agree on a program which will constructively support and implement the good neighbor policy."

### ACCIDENT RATE SHOWS DECLINE IN INDUSTRY

New York City.—A reduction since last year of nearly two points in the accident frequency rate in industrial plants was reported by the Greater New York Safety Council on the basis of its fifth annual inter-plant accident reduction contest.

Of the 463 plants in the metropolitan area competing in the 1947 contest, 64 led their divisions in reducing accidents. Ninety-six plants went through the six months' test period without accident.

During the period from April 1 through September 30, Ben H. Self, chairman of the council's contest committee said, the cumulative frequency covering 181,009,867 man hours of work was 16.90, compared with 18.65 a year ago. The frequency rate is the number of lost-time accidents in 1,000,000-man hours of work.

### TWO RAILWAY UNIONS GET 1 1/2-CENT PAY HIKE

Chicago.—Two of the five railroad operating employees unions reached agreement with the nation's carriers providing a 1 1/2-cent hourly pay boost for some 200,000 union members.

The Order of Railway Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen announced the satisfactory completion of negotiations which have been in progress with the carriers.

In addition to the pay increase, conductors and trainmen on nearly 98 per cent of the country's railroads will receive greater financial benefits through the revision of operating rules governing working conditions and hours of work.