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**MINE WORKERS PULL OUT  
AFL; GREEN SAYS ACTION  
WILL AID LABOR'S ENEMIES**

Washington, D. C.—President John L. Lewis announced his United Mine Workers of America have withdrawn from the American Federation of Labor.

He made public a curt 2-word message addressed to AFL President William Green reading, "We disaffiliate."

No official explanation was given by the UMW chief for the action which was decided upon by the union's executive board at a meeting in Washington.

Mr. Green issued the following comment on Mr. Lewis's withdrawal from the AFL:

"The membership of the American Federation of Labor sincerely regrets the withdrawal of affiliation on the part of the United Mine Workers of America. The friends of organized labor will be disappointed but the enemies of both the United Mine Workers of America and the American Federation of Labor have been made happy.

"We are passing through a historic period when the need for unity within the ranks of labor is pressing and urgent. Our enemies are united against us. Can we successfully cope with our united enemies by creating division within our own ranks?"

"The record shows that the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor are united in their opposition to the Taft-Hartley law. Differences as to the methods which should be employed in fighting the act developed at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor which was held in San Francisco. These differences were settled through the utilization of the democratic process. The delegates in attendance at the convention decided the question at issue by more than a two-thirds vote. It was assumed that all who participated in the discussions and deliberations of the convention would abide by the decision rendered by the delegates in attendance at the convention. That is the democratic way. Congress, state legislatures, city councils and even the Supreme Court of the United States settle differences in that way. There is no better way which can be utilized or followed. It is unthinkable that any part of a minority should withdraw from affiliation with a deliberative body because it declared against them, if we are to preserve the principle of democracy and be governed in formation of policies by the democratic process.

"We hope that after calm deliberation and a consideration of all the facts that the United Mine Workers of America will reconsider their action and return to the American Federation of Labor. We shall do all within our power to bring about this result."

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Good  
Wishes*



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