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Protest Against All
ANTI-LABOR Bills!

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CUT PRICES, PROFITS, RESTORE PAY BALANCE

Taft-Hartley Law Exposed!

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This is the fifth of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said:

NO. 5—THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW—(Continued) 4. "Relief from High Initiation Fees"

The next alleged benefit is relief from excessive initiation fees, which it is claimed run into hundreds of dollars. Were there evidence of any widespread abuse in this respect, the power given the board to control and determine initiation fees in union-shop situations might have some excuse. However, the fact is that the average initiation fee of the vast majority of labor organizations ranges from \$5.00 to \$10.00, and those few organizations which charge higher initiation fees invariably bestow in return for such fees old-age benefits, unemployment benefits, sick and accident benefits, and the like. Surely, the very few instances in which a union may have charged an excessive fee does not warrant wholesale regulation by government tribunals; the very existence of labor organizations depends upon their ability to adequately to finance themselves through fees prescribed by vote of the membership.

Once the door is opened to government regulation of such important matters, labor organizations can exist and effectively function only to the extent permitted by government. Over the years, and particularly at present, we have seen many examples of exorbitant prices charged by employers and tremendous profits realized. But it has not been suggested that a government tribunal be set up on a permanent basis for the purpose of prescribing and regulating prices and profits.

5. "Ban on Compulsory Checkoff"
The requirement that individuals must authorize the checkoff of union dues does not add a great deal to a privilege which employees possessed prior to the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. The great bulk of checkoff agreements have traditionally provided that employees must submit individual authorizations.

6. "Opportunity to Present Own Grievances"
The "Post" article deems it a great privilege that employees, under existing bargaining contracts, be permitted to present their own grievances without the intervention of the duly selected bargaining representative.

Here again, we see another example of the law's ulterior purpose of restoring individual rather than collective bargaining, and of driving every possible wedge between employees and labor organizations. Adjustment of grievances under collective bargaining agreements is one of the most important functions of any labor organization. If an organization has been duly selected by a majority of the employees and has thereby achieved exclusive bargaining rights, why should not its representatives at least be present during the negotiation or settlement of all grievances involving employees in the bargaining units?

It is of vital importance that grievances be adjusted on a consistent basis and pursuant to established policies. Encouraging individual adjustments can serve only to cause disruption within the union and to afford opportunity for the employer to weaken or discredit a duly selected bargaining representative by giving preference to the adjustment of grievances submitted by individuals.

7. "An End to Jurisdictional Strikes and Secondary Boycotts"
The "Post" article asserts that the wholesale ban upon jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts contained in the Taft-Hartley Act is a boon to workers and to the public. Certain examples are cited, as, for instance, attempts by an uncertified union to dispossess a certified union, and refusal by members of one na-

tional organization to work upon goods made by members of another national labor organization.

The article does not mention the many types of boycott and so-called jurisdictional strikes which are outlawed by the act and which have every historical economic justification. The article does not mention the fact that there are good jurisdictional strikes and boycotts and bad jurisdictional disputes and boycotts, but that the act sweep all within its prohibition. The article does not mention that the broad and indiscriminate prohibitions of the law operate to negate and deny the entire principle of mutual aid and assistance so basic to the trade union movement and, indeed, upon which the movement is founded.

The act prevents organized employees in one industry from utilizing the help of other organized employees in the same industry, entirely neglectful of the economic principle that wages and working conditions within an entire industry must be stabilized if cut-throat competition is to be avoided. The act requires organized employees to contribute to the destruction of their own working standards by obliging them to work upon materials or goods produced under non-union conditions.

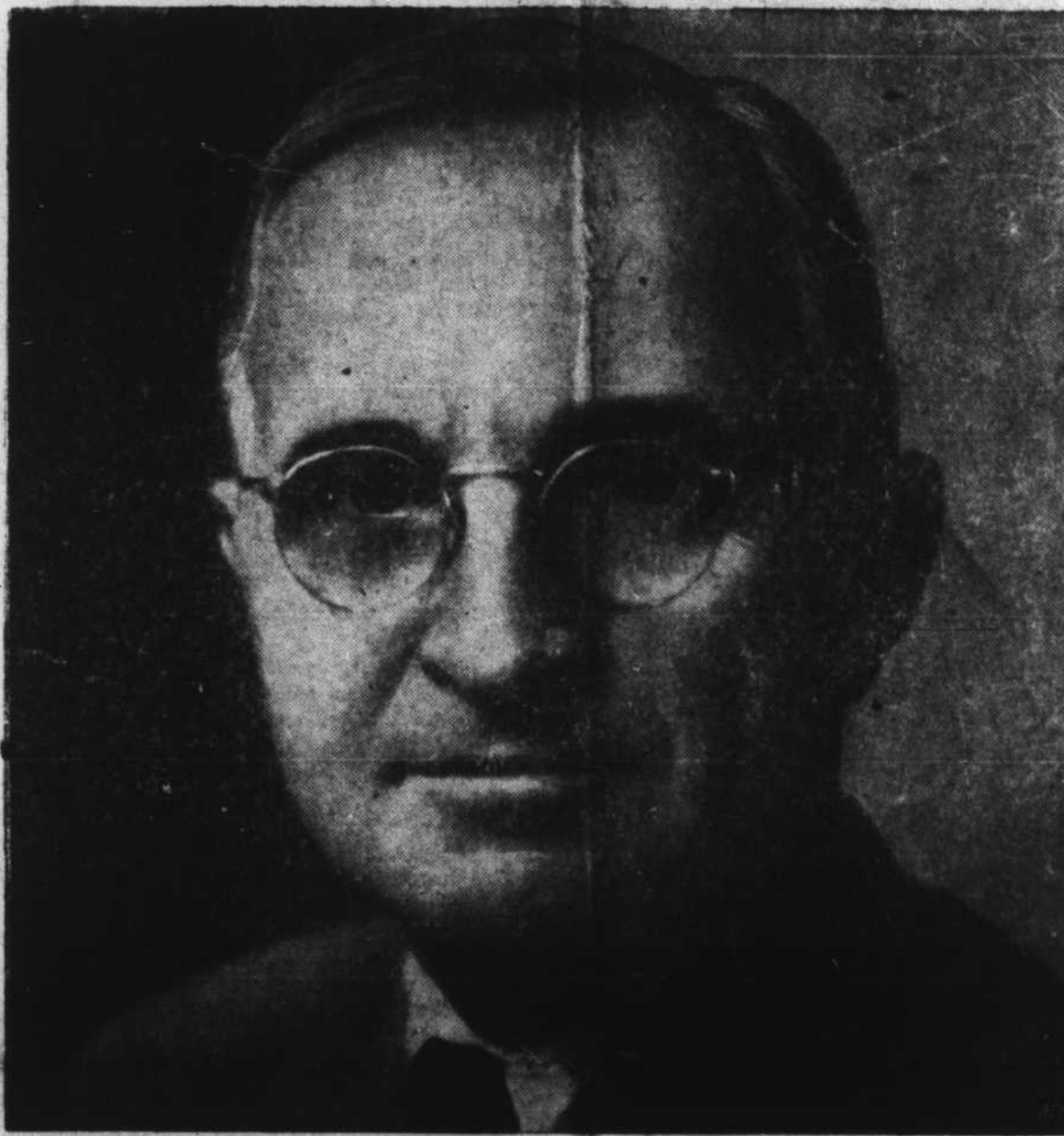
In doing so, Congress was not unmindful of the admonition of Justices Brandeis and Holmes in their dissenting opinion in the Duplex Printing Company case that "Courts, with better appreciation of the facts of industry, recognized the unit of interest throughout the union, and that in refusing to work on materials which threatened it, the union was only refusing to aid in destroying itself" (a statement now accepted by the full Court—see *Thornhill v. Alabama*, 310 U. S. 88; *American Steel Foundries v. Tri-City Central Trades Council*, 257 U. S. 184; and *Bakery & Pastry Drivers v. Wohl*, 315 U. S. 769).

SENATE CONFIRMS MEN NAMED TO LABOR JOBS

Washington, D. C.—The Senate confirmed President Truman's appointees to the National Labor Relations Board, Abe Murdock of Utah and J. Copeland Gray of New York. Favorable action was also taken on the appointment of Robert N. Denham as general counsel for the NLRB.

Mr. Truman gave recess appointments to these men when the first session of the 80th Congress adjourned without taking action on his recommendations.

Hopeful For World Peace



President Harry S. Truman

In a New Year's message to the people of the United States President Harry S. Truman says that he sees great prosperity for the country throughout the year. The President also said that he is "confidently looking forward to a world peace on which all nations can agree."

ANTI-LABOR ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN PRESS EXPOSED BY MUSICIANS' UNION JOURNAL

New York City.—The American press double standard because of a little story which recently came to my attention. It's a little story, only because our newspapers made it a little story. Actually it is a big story and a shameful story.

Richard McCann, president of the local, pointed out the way in which newspapers suppressed the story of employers' wholesale violations of the Wage-Hour law announced several weeks ago by the Labor Department. A full report of the shocking situation was carried in the AFL Weekly News Service.

Because it is of general interest to all members of organized labor to be aware of and to make allowances for the anti-labor attitude found in the American press, portions of Mr. McCann's article follow:

"I raise the issue about the



J. J. THOMAS
President Charlotte Fireman's local greets Charlotte union members with best wishes for the new year.

Additional appointments confirmed by the Senate without objection included those of Cyrus S. Ching, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; David A. Morse, Under-Secretary of Labor, and John T. Kimetz, Asst. Secretary of Labor.

"We had hoped to reproduce some of the displays in this issue of the newsletter but the volume was too great and each display was of such superior quality."

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Greets Charlotte Labor



CLAUDE L. ALBEA
President of Charlotte Central Labor Union

Sends New Year greetings to all members of organized labor in Charlotte and vicinity. He is joined by all the officers and members of Charlotte Central Labor Union in extending good wishes to all members of the affiliated crafts.

TRUMAN ECONOMIC UNIT SEES HIGH LIVING COST AS MAJOR PROBLEM

Washington, D. C.—Industrial prices and profits will have to be reduced and "gross imbalances" in the wage structure rectified, if the nation's economy is to be stabilized, the Council of Economic Advisors declared.

This was the main theme of the council's second annual report to President Truman required by the Employment

Control Act. Inflation, the high cost of living, and a threatened recession were singled out in the report as present economic problems which must be attacked vigorously before the end of 1948.

AFL LABOR PRESS LAUDED FOR PART IN PUBLICIZING COMMUNITY CHEST DRIVES

New York City.—Individual AFL members, the AFL labor press, and affiliated unions gave generously of their time, efforts, and money to push the Community Chest campaigns to an all-time peacetime record, the Community Chests and Councils, Inc. of New York City, announced.

The AFL labor press was singled out for special thanks and praise in a special edition of the newsletter published by the national organization. The newsletter said:

"We extend our whole-hearted appreciation for the splendid cooperation that you gave us in the recent Community Chest campaigns. Never before has such splendid publicity been given by the labor press to these campaigns. We wish to thank the editors of the monthly journals of the National and International Unions and the State Federations of Labor, for devoting covers to Red Feather symbols as well as editorials. To the editors of official weekly AFL papers we express our sincere appreciation for their stories on the progress of the campaigns, editorials, and page advertisements."

"We had hoped to reproduce some of the displays in this issue of the newsletter but the volume was too great and each display was of such superior quality."

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Devoting itself to the thesis that sustained, maximum production could be achieved for the benefit of more Americans than ever before, the council asserted that real price competition was the most essential single factor needed to restore the economy to proper balance.

Focusing on what it regarded as the heart of the situation, the council said:

"In any composite of salutary policies, none is so significant as the achievement and maintenance of real price competition, which means the lowest price consistent with a fair return in a stable economy rather than the highest price that the traffic will bear in an unstable economy."

The council, disagreed with "prominent leaders in business and public life (who) have proposed that the standard work week be lengthened from 40 to 44 or even 48 hours."

The report said many industries were on a continuous-process basis and many could not be added to their working day, while in some industries afflicted by a shortage of materials longer hours would aggravate the amount of unproductive time.

The council stood firm "for the present" for the 8-hour day, 5-day week, and 2-week paid vacation.

In contrast to high production abnormally sustained, the council pleaded that maximum production could be maintained indefinitely if properly balanced. It suggested that a major factor in striking such a balance would be to make it possible for the "bottom quarter or third" of the people who have been "subsisting on skim milk" to enjoy more of the goods from the flow of a great production.

In stressing "maximum production" the council relegated to second place the idea of "full employment," explaining that the "inadequacy" of "mere number of jobs" had been demonstrated.

The report added: "For we were astonished to find, after the country had reached the idealized figure of 60,000,000 jobs, that the volume of production still was disappointing. And with production shortages, we also found that abundant monetary purchasing power confronted us with inflationary dangers rather than calling for adequate production."

The economists stated that near-maximum production today was due to "abnormal circumstances" such as military expenditures, foreign aid, and temporary crop shortages and war-time backlogs of orders for consumer goods and durable goods.

In view of the abnormal stimulation of production, the council stated that mere acceleration would not solve the problem.

"It (acceleration) will simply advance the time when we shall have to face the problem of what price, income, and property value adjustments have to be made to strike an internally consistent or stable equilibrium," the report went on. "It seems clear that in reaching this equilibrium many industrial prices must come down at least in relation to other prices."

"Many rates of profits must subside while reasonable profitability is established in other areas. Gross imbalances in the wage structure must be rectified." (Please Turn to Page 3)