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POLICE ACTION IN STRIKE IS DENOUNCED

LOWER WITHHOLDING TAX EFFECTIVE MAY 1 UNDER LAW PASSED OVER TRUMAN'S VETO

Washington.—"Take-home" pay for the average American worker will increase on May 1 when employers start to withhold taxes at the lower rates provided for in the new tax law enacted by Congress over the veto of President Truman.

Disregarding Mr. Truman's warning that the tax cut will serve to weaken the United States, crushing majorities in both the Senate and House voted approval of the measure.

The \$4,800,000,000 reduction in taxes for 54,000,000 taxpayers is effective retroactively to January 1 of this year. Refunds for the extra tax collected through the withholding process from that date until May 1 will be paid in March, 1949, when final income tax returns for the calendar year 1948 are filed.

Some 7,400,000 taxpayers in the lowest brackets will be dropped from the rolls entirely. The remaining 47,100,000 will benefit from increased exemptions and a cut in the tax due after all other benefits have been figured.

The law allows:

1. An increase from \$500 to \$600 in the personal exemption for each taxpayer and dependent.

2. A special extra exemption to bring the total to \$1,200 for those who are blind or 65 or more years of age.

3. Extension of the so-called "community property" principle, now in force in 12 states, to all 48. Husbands and wives may now split up their combined income for the purpose of figuring taxes, even if one spouse earns all the money. This can result in tax savings ranging from 2.93 per cent to 40.5 per cent in addition to all other cuts in the law.

4. Approximately 7,400,000 taxpayers who earn less than \$700 are removed from the rolls altogether.

5. There is a 12.6 per cent cut on the first \$2,000 of taxable income (after deductions and exemptions). There is a 7.4 per cent cut on that part of the income above \$2,000 and up to \$136,700. Above \$136,700 the cut is 5 per cent.

6. A new national system for gift and estate tax liability is established, including a community property provision.

WINS WAGE INCREASE

New York.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union won wage increases ranging from \$10.52 to \$32.27 a month for employees serving on dry cargo ships operated by six shipping concerns.

Paul Hall, secretary-treasurer of the union, said "several thousand" men would be affected by the agreement reached under a wage reopening clause in a contract expiring July 31.

The union will seek the same terms from 28 other companies, Mr. Hall declared, and will soon commence negotiations with operators of passenger vessels.



AFL President William Green, with key in hand, and group of AFL leaders as they opened national headquarters of Labor's League for Political Education at 1525 H. St., St., across from the White House, in Washington, D. C.



Attending meeting of state federation of labor representatives to discuss setting up of state branches of LLPE were the following, from left to right: Reuben G. Soderstrom, president, Illinois Federation; John Reid, secretary, Michigan Federation; Carl Mullen, president, Indiana Federation; and William Nagorsne, secretary, and George A. Haberman, president, both of the Wisconsin Federation.

TAFT-HARTLEY INJUNCTION HITS AFL UNION

A prize example of gross injustice perpetrated under the Taft-Hartley Act was afforded the nation when the Department of Justice teamed with a recalcitrant corporation to obtain an injunction against the Atomic Trades and Labor Council, an AFL group representing a thousand workers at the atomic bomb laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The injunction, issued by Federal Judge George C. Taylor at Knoxville, restrains the union workers for 80 days from quitting their jobs—even though they had offered to arbitrate their dispute with the Carbine and Carbon Chemical Corporation, which operates the plant for the Federal Atomic Energy Commission.

The workers at the laboratory have a union contract with the Monsanto Chemical Corporation which formerly operated the plant. When the Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corporation recently took over operation, it sought to change provisions in the contract in order to make them conform with contracts the corporation has with other unions in other plants.

This would have meant, union officials charged, sharp reduction in standards. Sick leave benefits would be curtailed, vacation standards cut and a 15 cent wage differential in favor of laboratory workers which has been in effect traditionally because of the hazardous nature of their jobs would have been wiped out.

Union negotiators protested vigorously against these changes, but found the company stubbornly unwilling to negotiate or to arbitrate the issues. At the request of the government, the union agreed not to strike and to maintain the status quo pending attempts to resolve the dispute, but these failed.

At this point, with threats of court injunctions in the air, a telegram was sent to President Harry Truman by James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Trades Department and Kenneth Scott, representative of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council.

Meanwhile, moves were initiated on Capitol Hill to forbid by new legislation any strikes by workers at atomic bomb plants. It was presumed that this proposed legislation would establish some machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation and arbitration.

UNIONS' AGREEMENT ON JURISDICTION PERMITS TEL- EVISING OF STAGE SHOWS

New York.—An agreement between two AFL unions avoided a possible jurisdictional dispute which would have interfered with plans for televising scenes from current theatrical performances now running on Broadway.

The AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees agreed on a virtual 50-50 split within the various job classifications involved in producing the television broadcasts.

The first program will originate from the Alvin Treafter when part of the play "Mr. Roberts," and backstage interviews will be televised over the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each of the 2 unions will furnish practically equal numbers of cameramen, control men and other technicians.

On a wide front, both these AFL internationals have been seeking jurisdiction in the television field. The IATSE claims it is kindred to the entertainment of screen and stage, while the IBEW claims it is kindred to radio. Among video technicians represented by the IATSE are those in the DuMont Studios, while IBEW has the television technical staff at CBS.

The even split on the new show, first to emanate from the stage employees "home grounds," was worked out following conferences between IA President Walsh and IBEW President Dan W. Tracy. Since both of them are interested in television's progress, neither wanted to obstruct the "Tonight on Broadway" program. The union arrangement, at present, is limited to the first three weeks. After that, it may be extended or altered.

For some time, Walsh and Tracy have been attempting to resolve jurisdictional problems between their two organizations. Recently they signed an agreement settling a dispute of many years' standing in the Hollywood film studios. There, as in most such settlements, specific job classifications were assigned to each union.

UNCLE SAM RETURNING LEASED WAR HOUSING

Washington.—More than 40 per cent of the privately-owned properties leased by the government during the war for conversion into housing for war workers have now been returned to their owners, the Public Housing Administration announced.

A total of 8,830 properties, many of them previously of non-residential nature, were leased in the Homes Conversion Program and remodeled into dwelling units for 49,613 war worker families. More than 3,600 leases have now been terminated.

All good unionists will want to go to the Union-Industries Show! It's a date! Meet me in Milwaukee in 1948.

New York.—Labor unions and civic groups joined in criticism of the night-stick swinging tactics used by New York police against union pickets stationed around the Curb and Stock Exchanges here where members of Local 205 of the AFL's Office Employees International Union are on strike.

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, said the situation revealed a "shocking state of affairs" and requested the New York Police Commissioner not to allow the use of the police as a strikebreaking agency.

The ILGWU president announced at the same time that he was sending \$5,000 in contributions as strike support to M. David Keefe, president of Local 205; the union whose members are on strike. Of that sum \$2,500 was given by the ILGWU General Office and \$2,500 by the New York Joint Board of the Video Makers, Union, ILGWU.

"This strike deserves full support of the entire labor movement," Mr. Dubinsky said. "It is a time when industrial workers are enjoying the benefits of higher wages and job security from collective bargaining and union protection, while others are suffering at the financial hands of the American and the world's ruling class. Their claims are not just cause. Their claims are from real need. The position taken by the Wall Street leaders in forcing their workers to strike for minimum protection cannot be too strongly condemned."

The strike took place after officials of the financial stock exchanges remained adamant in their refusal to grant wage increases and the union shop.

Employees of the exchanges had previously won union shop authorization elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board by overwhelmingly large majorities. This expression of desire on the part of the employees for a union security provision made no impression on the employers, however, since the Taft-Hartley law does not compel them to actually grant the union shop.

MAYOR PROCLAIMS UNION LABEL WEEK

Sacramento, Calif. — Recognizing the importance of the contribution of labor to the community, Belle Coolegge, mayor of this city, issued a proclamation designating the week of May 10-16 as Union Label Week.

This action follows the lead of the AFL Executive Council which voted enthusiastically at its last meeting in Miami to sponsor the observance of Union Label Week in connection with the Union-Industries Show which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from May 10-16.

Declaring that the city of Sacramento has co-operated closely in its working relationships with organized labor, Mayor Coolegge said "the union label stands for any product has become recognized as a badge of honor."