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GREEN HITS MOVE TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY

AFL President William Green attacked a "joker" bill before Congress which, under the guise of maintaining the status quo with regard to social security benefits would actually deprive 500,000 to 750,000 American workers of social security protection.

In a letter to Chairman Eugene D. Millikin of the Senate Finance Committee, Mr. Green requested the opportunity to present testimony against this legislation which has already passed the House and is now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

The bill referred to (H. J. Res. 296) was introduced by Representative Bertrand W. Gearhart of California. No opportunity was offered labor to present arguments against the bill when it was before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Green said that those who would be adversely affected by this measure include life insurance agents, taxicab drivers, owner-operators of trucks and busses, newsboys and newspaper vendors, industrial home workers operating on a contract basis and some mechanics in the building and construction trades who operate on a semi-contract basis.

A dispute arose between the Social Security Administration and the Treasury Department more than 10 years ago whether these workers were included in the coverage of the act, Mr. Green explained. In 1947 the Supreme Court, in 3 cases, upheld the Social Security Administration's contention that such workers are covered under the act. Consequently the Treasury inserted a notice in the Federal Register that new regulations covering the conditions of these borderline employees and their employers were to be issued.

When the Gearhart bill, Mr. Green charged, attempts to reverse the Supreme Court decisions by redefining the term "employee" as interpreted under the Social Security Act. This redefinition, he said, would effectively deny Social Security protection to workers in the twilight zone of employment.

"At a time when our country should be taking action to increase and extend the coverage of the social security laws" Mr. Green declared, "enactment of the Gearhart bill would prove a cruel step backward."

THE MARCH OF LABOR



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL) BOUGHT \$35 BILLION WORTH OF AMERICAN PRODUCTION IN 1946.



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EXCERPTS FROM COURT RULING

(Continued from Page 1)
vision prohibiting expenditures by labor organizations in connection with elections does not purport to affect only cases in which a minority of the membership, however small or great, is opposed to the expenditure. It covers all such expenditures in connection with federal elections.

We cannot presume that substantial differences of opinion or desire exist in labor organizations with reference to matters concerning labor's welfare. Such organizations do not follow political party lines as such, and to say that doubtless there are in the membership large numbers of voters of differing political party affiliation is not to say that all these may not be unitedly in favor of, or opposed to, candidates who respectively favor or oppose the type of legislation which laboring men and women in general believe to be in their best interest.

The prohibition in this statute against expenditures by labor organizations in effect would prevent such organizations from doing any act in connection with an election, since they are composite entities and not individuals, and by their very nature can make no move which does not involve some expenditure.

Defendants contend that the legislation is vulnerable also as an arbitrary discrimination against labor organizations in violations of the Fifth Amendment, and because it does not affix an ascertainable standard of guilt, as required by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. I do not deem it essential to decide these questions, since I have concluded that the challenged provision of the statute is invalid because of abridgment of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

There is nothing in the Taft-Hartley law that prevents union workers from spending their union-earned money with firms that display the Union Label, Shop Card and Button.

Some members complain about union leaders when its the followers who are often to blame for failure to obtain results!

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