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# WISCONSIN COURT RULES OUT UTILITY LAW

### NEWSREEL AND DOCUMENTARY MOVIES PLANNED FOR UNION-INDUSTRIES SHOW

Washington. — Newsreel and documentary movies will be taken at the great Union-industries Show to be held in Milwaukee from May 12 to 16 according to an announcement by I. M. Ornburn, show director and secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

Through the medium of motion pictures, millions of people throughout the nation will be able to see the spectacle as presented in the vast Milwaukee auditorium to demonstrate to the public the fruits of labor-management co-operation.

In addition to newsreel "shots" for presentation in public theaters, a complete educational movie will be made for later showing before clubs, organizations and other groups. This will include detailed picturing of the individual displays depicting union services and union-made products.

Mr. Ornburn declared that advance reaction to the announced plans for the exposition indicates that capacity audiences will tax the capacity of the auditorium. Arrangements have been made with schools for the students to attend in groups which will be staggered throughout the day in order to avoid overflow audiences at night.

"The Union-Industries Show is a big-scale exhibition," said Director I. M. Ornburn. "The 1948 show will be bigger and better than ever before. It will be more versatile than our past exhibitions because there are ever-increasing varities of union products and services. Almost every American industry will be represented. On the exhibition floor will be shown union-made requirements for all American consumers. AFL members in co-operation with union employers will not only perform the services but they will 'deliver the goods.' Food, housing, and clothing needs will be shown. Full requirements for homes, factories, transportation and all institutions will be one display. Every booth will be ample proof that the American Federation of Labor is not only the servant of all humanity."

### McCOMB PROPOSES NEW FLSA RECORDS PROVISIONS

Washington — William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Deparment of Labor, made public a proposed amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act record-keeping regulations which would require employers to keep for only three years certain records now required to be kept for four years.

Employers now are required to keep basic records, such as time cards and similar working records, for two years. This provision is unchanged.

The proposal with respect to the other records was made in the light of the Portal-to-Portal Act, which establishes to two-year federal statute of limitations applying to suits for back wages

### HINES SEES LABOR LAW STIMULATING DISUNITY

Reading, Pa.—Lewis G. Hines, AFL national legislative representative, blasted the Taft-Hartley law and declared it was foisted on the American people by the National Association oi Manufacturers which represents the bg business interest of the nation.

Hines was the principal speaker at a dinner meeting which concluded a 2-day educational institute held on the campus of Albright College here under the asupices of the Conference of the Conference of Eastern Pennsylvania Central Labor Unions.

The AFL spokesman said the general public has been victimized by the propaganda barrage laid down by the NAM and other anti-labor organizations. He charged that the law has created disunity in the nation at a time when he menace of communsm demands unified action by all groups to preserve democracy.

### UNION-INDUSTRIES SHOW WILL BE FULL OF ACTION AND GLAMOUR

The Union-Industries Show will be one of the most glamorous events in the history of the American labor mevement, according to all reports received by I. M. Ornburn, Director, while in Milwaukee, where the impressive exhibition wll take place, May 12-16, n Milwaukee's huge auditorium.

"Our Union-Industries Show is a visual demonstration of labor-management - consumer co-operation," said Mr. Ornburn, "and it will prove that successful collective bargaining is the best method of obtaining the highest quality and superb workmanship in both goods and services: It will prove that the high-wage purchasing power of the millions of members of trade unions and their families is the principal means of absorbing the ever-increasing production of American indus'ry. $n brief, it will prove that our Nation's safety and prosperity mainly depend upon the union market."

Arrangements are being made for many "action" exhibits wherein union workers will actually make union-made wares. The miralces of the glass industry, for example, will be shown by union bottle blowers and flint glass workers. Neon signs, with all their glorious colorings, will be manufactued before the very eyes of those in attendance. Union carpenters will have a unique exhibit showing the old-style methods with a hammar and band saw, used by carpenters in former years, contrasted with the modern and tsreamlined equipment of today.

There will be many other "live" displays of union-made merchandise and union services before the vast throngs which are predicted to attend the Union-Industries Show when at noon, May 12, the Governnor of Wisconsin and other notables will sever the ribbons to the entrance of the four spaciens halls of the Milwaukee Auditorium.

### PRINTING TRADES ENDORSE FUND DRIVE FOR HISTADRUT

New York.—The Allied Printing Trades Council endorsed the $1,000,000 drive of the American Trade Union Council for Labor Palestine, declared Ralph Wright, secretary of the council.

Lauding the role of Histadrut in the Holy Land, Mr. Wright, in a letter to the 19 affiliated locals, stated, "The record of its accomplishments for the workers of that country stands as a shining monument to its severe trials and mighty labors. The financial assistance now sought through the American Trade Union Council will enable it to continue its great and humanitarian achievements."

Patronize fair employers who display the Union Label and you'll secure your own job as well as the jobs of your brother unionists!

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.

Milwaukee. — Judge Alvin C. Reis of the Wisconsin Circuit Court ruled that the Wisconsin state law providing for compulsory arbitration and prohibiting strikes in public utility industries s inconstitutional.

In a directly worded opinion notable for the absence of the usual legal jargon, Judge Reis said the law, which is patterned after a similar Indiana law, is unconstitutional for the following reasons:

1. It forces utility employes into "involuntary servitude contrary to the federal constitution.
2. The law deprives public utility employes of their "liberty" without due process of law.
3. It discriminates against utility workers and prevents them from enjoying the right to strike while all other workers in the state are left free to enjoy that right.

William Nagorsne, secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, which waged an unsuccessful fight against enactment of the law by the 1947 legislature, hailed the decision as one of the most "outstanding" rulings in favor of labor.

Judge Reis was highly critical of the sweeping provisions of the law providing for compulsory arbitration and at the same time prohibiting strikes for any reason before, during or after the arbitration proceedings. He said in part:

"American law always has proclaimed that strikes may be lawful or unlawful, depending on purpose.

"Yet the Wisconsin legislature of 1947 denounced any strike in a public utility as criminal, whether to obtain a good or an evil end!

"There is a host of decisions throughout this land, built up over decades, that a strike to obtain, for example, a fair wage or reasonable hours, is perfectly lawful. On the other hand, it has been held that a strike to prevent others from obtaining work and the denominated "sympathetic" strike, are unlawful.

"But our Badger law just flatly orders that every strike shall be a crime because it happens to occur in a public utility. Moreover, though admittedly a strike for fair wages or reasonable hours always is lawful, this 1947 Wisconsin law seems to announce: No matter how unfair a deal you think you have gotten on wages and hours by the arbitration to which you were compelled by this law to submit, you cannot strike even after that. You are bound like a bunch of "ninnies" for a year. The fact is that so far as your right to "strike" goes, you are bound until you die, and if you do not like this and choose to go on strike, then you are guilty of a misdemeanor and can be sent to jail.

"Such a law, in our humble opinion, is invalid, whether it is designed to function inside utilties or outside utilities, or both. It is void, and whether it is voia because it shoves 'involuntary servitude" on men or because it deprives them of liberty "without due process of law," is academic."

### CONGRESS EXTENDS RENT CONTROL FOR YEAR; REJECTS AUTONOMY FOR LOCAL RENT BOARDS

and sent to President Truman a compromise measure extending rent control in modified form until March 31, 1949.

In place of the provisions in the House bill which would have given local boards power to determine whether rent control should be continued, the compromise version established a new federal court to review disputed cases and render a final deccision.

The American Federation of Labor approved the grant of arbitrary power to local rent boards on grounds it would mean the virtual end to effective controls.

The measure adopted provides that the Emergency Court of Appeals, established in the Price Control Act of 1942, review fully the evidence of both sides in cases where the Expediter rejects the recommendations submitted by the local boards.

The court, made up of three or more federal judges named by the Chief Justice of the United States, would automatically receive the challenged recommendations. It would be required to uphold recommendations based upon "adequate and substantial evidence" and support the expediter if it found them "not of sufficient weight."

The measure stipulates that the 365 local boards must conduct public hearings and give oppropriate advance notice of them before arriving at any recommendations.

In other provisions governing some 50,000,000 persons living in 13,000,000 dwellings under federal rent control, the law says:

Landlords and tenants may enter into "voluntary" leases extending at least through December 31, 1949, and permitting rent increases of up to 15 per cent.

Units operating under similar leases, under provisions of existing law, would be "frozen" at the stipulated rentals without any pyramiding of an additional 15 per cent for the duration of the extension.

Units operating under existing "voluntary" leases, that became free from controls through va--canacy between January 1, and the effective date of the extension, would remain uncontrolled.

Except for nonpayment or cretion of a nuisance, a 60-day notice would be required for eviction. Evictions would also be possible for dwelling alterations, occupancy by a landlord's immediate family os his election to withdarw the property from the rental market.

To combat the "co-operative housing racket" in metropolitan areas, it was provided that 65 per cent of the stock in proposed co-operative apartments had to be held by tenants and occupants.