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## AFL CALLS FOR PROBE BY UN OF THE SLAVE LABOR IN RUSSIAN-RULED STATES

New York.—The American Federation of Labor asked the United Nations to investigate slave labor condition in satellite nations of Soviet Russia, and charged that in four such countries "laborers are literally worked to death."

The AFL position was stated in a memorandum to Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the UN, from Matthew Woll, chairman of the federation's international relations committee. Mr. Woll and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, are official AFL consultants to the United Nations. The memorandum urged nations "behind the iron curtain" to give their consent to an investigation of conditions by the International Labor Organization.

A survey by the federation, the memorandum said, disclosed that in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland workers are not free to join unions of their choosing and that in each country there exists "a single unitary trade union body which has monopolistic powers and is under the domination of the Communist party and the government."

In Poland, the AFL memorandum charged, prewar trade unions had been jailed, deported and killed. Freedom of workers' movements has been restricted and "while no antistrike laws exist, those who foment labor unrest, or strikes, are liable to arrest and criminal prosecution under the charge of engaging in economic sabotage."

A Polish mine worker, the report charged, had died from overwork and exhaustion. The federation urged that all workers "must have the right to freely form, join or belong to trade unions without interference, and that these trade unions must be free to act, in accordance with the decisions of their members."

All countries with an industrialized economy and a trade union movement should be studied, the federation recommended.

Official Soviet publications, the federation noted, showed that unions in Russia are dominated by the Communist party and the government. Collective bargaining, discontinued from 1934 to 1947, the survey declared, and the new system of collective agreements, based on a piecework scale, with increases in the norms of output, has led to a consequent decrease in workers' pay. Workers, unable to change jobs at will, function under a "forced labor system," the report continued.

Mr. Woll said that the federation's report would likely come before the seventh session of the Economic and Social Council, which opens in Geneva July 19.

## NUMBER OF FEDERAL JOBS JUMPS 12,854 IN MONTH

Washington.—Federal employment showed an increase of 12,854 during the month of May, according to a report issued by the Civil Service Commission, bringing the grand total of government jobs to 2,961,342.

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Union Label Trades Dept., AFL

**The Right to VOTE**  
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Don't Fail to Use It

## AFL TELEGRAPHERS RAP WESTERN UNION

Washington.—The AFL's Commercial Telegraphers Union charged that inefficient operations on the part of the Western Union Company has impaired telegraph service "to the point where the future of the industry is in danger."

The union's charge was contained in a request filed with the Federal Communications Commission for an investigation of mass violations of the Federal Communications Act by the telegraph company.

The union accused the company of delaying "rush" messages and of having insufficient telephone operators in such cities as Chicago, Cleveland, New York and Washington in June and July. This forces the public to wait for from 5 to 30 minutes to file telegrams, the union charged.

"In many instances important and rush messages are delayed for so long a time that neither the sender nor the addressee receives and benefit therefrom," it added. "To the contrary, they frequently are subjected to serious financial and other loss."

The union said it had been informed by "many patrons" that they would discontinue telegraph service unless it improved.

"The telegraph service being rendered in many communities throughout the country has deteriorated to the point where the very future of the telegraph industry is in danger," it stated.

## BLS REPORTS STRIKES CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVEL

Washington.—The number of strikes taking place in May equaled the 275 recorded for April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Time lost from these stoppages, however, was about half that recorded for April, the BLS said. The largest factors in the reduction were the termination of the bituminous coal stoppage in mid-April, and to a lesser extent, the cessation of the meat packing

## FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL PROVIDED IN NEW BRITISH SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

London, England.—A "cradle-to-the-grave" social security system featuring free medical and dental care for all Britons became effective throughout Great Britain recently.

Cornerstone of the new system is the National Health Act which in effect lifts the burden of worry over the payment for high-cost medical care from the shoulders of all residents regardless of their economic or social station. The benefits of the act will be financed from payroll taxes and direct government contributions.

Simultaneously with the health system, a greatly improved national insurance program, which consolidates and expands previous piecemeal legislation, also went into effect. It carries far broader social security than exists in the United States.

The system provides liberalized disability benefits, death grants; cash payments during sickness, injury or unemployment; maternity payments and various other forms of assistance.

Under the health program, doctors fees, hospital bills, and drug costs will be borne by the government and paid out of the payroll taxes and government contributions to the insurance system fund. British citizens may continue to pay private fees to physicians, if they so desire, but adequate care is assured everyone without the necessity of paying premium fees.

In addition to the medical services rendered by physicians, the program will meet the cost of spectacles, hearing aids, artificial limbs, and other surgical devices required in the treatment of an illness.

Under the program, the government has taken control and ownership of some 3,500 hospitals, practically all in Great Britain except for about 200 run by religious orders.

To take advantage of all this free service, the British citizens need not give up their freedom to choose their own doctor. The plan specifically provides that patients will have their free choice of physicians or dentist.

Over 85 per cent of the nation's doctors have agreed to participate under the health program, and so far about half the dentists have done likewise.

## GROSS WEEKLY EARNINGS BELOW RECORD FOR 1947

Washington.—Average gross weekly earnings for the nearly 13,000,000 production workers in the nation totaled \$51.89 in May, a figure somewhat below the record average reached at the end of 1947, according to estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



## ILO CONFERENCE ADOPTS PROPOSED TREATY GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF ASS'N

San Francisco.—The 31st International Labor Conference in session here adopted a proposed treaty guaranteeing the freedom of association and the right of workers and employers to organize without interference on the part of government.

Approval of the declaration was nearly unanimous, with the only negative votes cast by the two government delegates from Portugal. Polish, Czechoslovak, and South African delegates abstained from voting.

The proposed treaty specified that workers and employers, "without distinction whatsoever," shall have the right to "establish and join organizations of their own choosing," without any

(Continued on Page 8)

BUY YOUR EXTRA SAVINGS BONDS NOW

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

## BENEFITS PAID VETERANS TOP \$8 BILLION MARK

Washington.—The Veterans Administration said it has handed out 14,300,000 "benefits" totaling \$8,223,000,000 during the first four years of the GI Bill of Rights.

More than 7,900,000 veterans received readjustment allowances, which included \$2,584,000,000 for unemployment and \$493,000,000 in self-employment allowances. More than 5,000,000 received education and training benefits totaling \$5,000,000,000. And 1,353,000 bought homes, farms and businesses with the aid of government guaranteed and insured loans. Interest on these loans cost the government \$140,000,000 and defaults cost another \$6,000,000.

Of the nation's 14,800,000 World War II veterans, many have received more than one type of assistance. Other thousands have applied for no benefits.

At the end of May, 503,276 veterans were receiving readjustment allowances and 2,333,766 were in training under the GI Bill.

## 2,704 EMPLOYEES RECEIVE \$56,494 IN BACK PAY

New York.—Inspections made by the Department of Labor here last month resulted in agreements by 121 employers to pay back wages in the amount of \$56,494 to 2,704 employees who had not been compensated properly for overtime work, or in accord with minimum wage rates, it was reported by the department's wage and hour and public contracts division.

## Are You REGISTERED? MEAT PRICES HIT NEW HIGH CONSUMER ROOKING ON

Washington.—The nation's consumers, already groggy from large overcharges of high prices, were hit hard again when wholesale meat and livestock prices soared to new highs.

The United States Department of Agriculture reported that prices were at their highest point in history and that only a "stiff" consumer boycott could stop them from going even higher. Wholesale meat prices in Chicago jumped as much as 5 cents a pound. In the livestock centers, hogs climbed to new all-time highs at some markets and choice beef hit new highs during the week ended July 10.

Cause for the price jumps according to a market analyst, is the fact that the nation's supply of meat in relation to demand is one of the shortest on record. Offering no cause for optimism, H. M. Conway, of the publication National Livestock Producer, said the situation would remain "acute" throughout the summer.

Conway did not supply comparative figures but said his estimate of a short supply was made in relation to a big increase in consumer demand. "Considering population growth in the past decade and prevailing full employment, the current prospective meat supply is very inadequate," Conway said.

He blamed the short corn crop last fall and the recent packing-house workers' strike for the restricted supply of meat. Conway said lack of corn discouraged production of beef in feed lots and slowed up hog production. Conway said livestock prices would remain high during the summer and that meat might be short for another year.

Although the Agriculture Department forecast an all-time record corn crop for 1948, Conway said it would be "some time" before the increased supply of feed could be converted into meat. Other experts said it might take a year before bumper 1948 feed crops could be reflected in more

## JULY 31 IS DEADLINE

Washington.—Carl R. Gray, Jr., Veterans Administrator, reminded veterans that July 31 is the last day on which they may reinstate national service life insurance policies without taking physical examinations. Veterans may reinstate their policies before August 1 by filling out an application form stating that their health is as good as when the policy was issued. Premiums must be paid for two months.

## RETAIL FOOD STORES GET THE MOST FROM CONSUMERS' SPENDING

Washington.—The lion's share of each dollar spent by American consumers in retail establishments goes to food stores, according to a report released by the Department of Commerce.

Moreover, analysis of the department reported that food stores are taking in a much larger part of the consumer's dollar than before the war. They now take in 27.6 cents of each dollar spent in retail channels while before the war their share was 23.5 cents.

Automobile dealers and filling stations rank next to food stores with their 15.9-cent "take" out of each dollar, but are still not up to their prewar share of 21.2 cents, the department reported.

Eating and drinking places rank next to food stores in enlarging their prewar share of the retail dollar. They get 10.1 cents of it now against 8.4 cents in 1940. But they've lost ground from midwar 1944, when their share was 13.5.

Liquor sellers are doing the same now as in 1940—getting 1.4 cents of the retail dollar, but that's a comedown, too, from the 2.1 cents they took in during 1944.

Men's clothing stores, having caught up with the immediate needs of the millions of returning veterans, now get 1.8 cents of the retail dollar, or just slightly less than their 1.9-cent share in 1940.

Women's clothing and accessories stores get a bigger share now than they did prewar—3.2 cents against an even 3 cents in 1940, but they've slipped a lot from 4.6 cents in wartime 1944.

Shoe stores now take in 1.2 cents of each retail dollar against 1.4 cents in 1940, while general merchandise stores, including mail order houses, get 12.5 cents against 14.8 cents prewar.

Others getting major outlets of the retail dollar include home furnishings, home appliance and radio stores, now getting 5.5 cents against 4.4 cents prewar; building materials and hardware places, now 7.6 cents against 6.7 cents prewar; and drug stores, 2.9 against 3.5 cents.

Retail sales account for perhaps two-thirds of all consumer spending, analysts estimate. They don't include rent money, or what is spent on amusements, doctor's bills, lawyer's fees and so on.

## NEW AFGE LOCAL SET UP AT GEORGIA AIR BASE

Macon, Ga.—Civil Service Employees at Warner-Robbins Field, a large government operated air field near here, organized into the American Federation of Government Employees as Local No. 987. Organizer L. T. Gourley, American Federation of Labor, reports that a large local has been set up representing several hundred members working under Civil Service employment at the large air base.

The Golden Rule of Trade Unionism is to buy Union Label goods from others as you would have them pay Union wages unto you!

If folks demand all things union—Then all things will be union!



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Union Label Trades Department

**Joe WORKER**  
By NAT SCHAGNER

INSIDE THE SMITH OFFICE THE THREE CONDOUR THUGS, ARMED WITH BLACK JACKS, ATTEMPT TO BEAT UP THE UNION MEN. PLANT WORKERS, RUSHING TO THE RESCUE, THROW OPEN THE DOOR...

YEAH, DOUBLED AND REDOUBLED! BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T HIT ANY VALUABLE MACHINERY WITH THEM!

WELL, MR. ALDEN, DO JIM AND I GET HIRED?

WHY, OF COURSE! WE CAN USE A COUPLE OF GOOD MEN LIKE YOU!

WELL, BOYS, SMITH'S HAS BEEN AN OPEN SHOP LONG ENOUGH. WHO WANTS TO STEP UP AND JOIN THE UNION?

ME! LEMME SIGN FIRST!

IXNAY! I GET TH' FIRST CARD!

HEY! STOP YOUR SHOVIN'!

ONE AT A TIME, BOYS. HE-LE-PE!

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE BOYS REALLY WANT A UNION!

HOLY SMOKE! WILL YA JUST LOOK'T THAT?

I CAN'T LOOK! DID-DID THEY KILL THEM?

OH, HELLO, BOYS! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO CART THESE 'AH' DIRECTORS AWAY.

YEAH! DIRECT 'EM TO THE NEAREST GARBAGE DUMP!

A COUPLE O' GOOD UNION FISTS!

OH, MY HEAD! WH-WHAT HIT ME?

WELL, BOYS, SMITH'S HAS BEEN AN OPEN SHOP LONG ENOUGH. WHO WANTS TO STEP UP AND JOIN THE UNION?

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