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AFL CALLS ON LABOR TO QUIT WFTU; HAILS DEAKIN'S POSITION ON COMMUNISTS

Washington. — The American Federation of Labor called upon all other labor organizations to quit the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

Hailing the recent stand taken by Arthur Deakin, British union leader and president of the WFTU who declared the organization had been "captured" by the Communists, a statement issued by the AFL said:

"There is no longer any reason for any self-respecting free trade union organization in the Old or New World to continue its affiliation with or contribute one cent to support the WFTU."

In this hemisphere, the CIO is the principal affiliate of the international labor body which also numbers as its members the Canadian Congress of Labor and several Latin-American organizations. The AFL refused to become affiliated and has fought consistently to undermine the WFTU's influence in world affairs.

"The AFL welcomes the crushing defeat administered to the Communist totalitarians by the British Trade Union Congress in session at Margate," the statement said. "By overwhelmingly rejecting all proposals to have the TUC reaffirm its support of the WFTU, British labor has rendered a signal service to the cause of true international labor solidarity, human freedom, and world reconstruction and peace."

"The sound and scathing indictment of the WFTU, made by its president, Arthur Deakin, as a Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) fomentor of social disorder and promoter of economic chaos in the interest of Russian imperialist aggression will prove of inestimable aid in fostering a fundamental alignment in the ranks of international labor. Such realignment is an essential prerequisite for attaining the effective labor support so indispensable to the success of the European Recovery Program."

The AFL statement expressed the hope that "this authoritative declaration by one of the outstanding and most influential spokesmen of the powerful and forward-looking British labor movement will finally dissipate all illusions that the Russians have been stopped in their use of the WFTU as a sounding board against the ERP and have been deprived of their best weapon in the ideological battle for European labor."

"The AFL," it continued, "has always stood for welding the firmest world bonds of democratic labor in a well-knit international federation of genuine free trade unions, unions free from domination by employers, governments and political parties. We have from the very inception warned against the role of the WFTU as an enormous obstacle to international labor solidarity and to the effective mobilization of the working people for sound economic reconstruction, social justice and lasting peace."

"The AFL has redoubled its efforts and greatly extended its undertakings in behalf of international free trade unionism as a bulwark of democracy, equitable standards of life, decent conditions of work and international harmony."

"It is in this spirit that the AFL heartily welcomes the historic decision of the Margate congress against the WFTU. We hail this decision which unites the hands of the TUC leadership and enables the great British trade union movement to take its rightful place in the front ranks of international labor, dedicated to the attainment of a world free from the fear of poverty and dictatorship and secure against the menace and horrors of war."



HARRY S. TRUMAN

Truman, Dewey State Labor Views

The following messages from President Harry S. Truman and Governor of New York Thomas E. Dewey, Democratic and Republican candidates, respectively, for President of the United States, were prepared especially for the "American Federationist," and appear in the current issue of that official organ of the American Federation of Labor:

By HARRY S. TRUMAN,
President of the United States.
The party that pressed the Taft-Hartley Act upon working people over my veto, and is responsible for the high cost of living, is asking labor to vote for its candidates in November. Having inaugurated in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress a blue print for tearing down 16 years of progress under the Democratic party, Republicans are now asking labor's support for their antilabor policies.

The 80th Congress was guided by Republican policies and was completely under the thumb of the Republican party. The Republican candidates cannot disavow the party leadership which dictated these policies. Neither are these policies repudiated in the Republican platform to which the candidates are committed.

The Republicans are asking workers to forget the gains made under a program of broad social and labor legislation that was started in 1933 by the Democratic party when Republican unemployment, hunger, despair and bankruptcy stalked the land.

The Republicans would like the people to forget that under their administration we had the world's worst depression and that Democratic policies, starting at the very bottom of that depression, brought the United States from the shadows of despair toward prosperity and human rights, welfare and understanding.

In 1933, after 12 years of Republican administration, union membership had dwindled to 2,857,000. Today, union membership exceeds 15,500,000, the highest in our history. The Republican reaction to growing union strength was to force the Taft-Hartley Act through the Congress.

In 1933 only 38,760,000 persons were employed, and 12,830,000 workers were jobless. Today employment exceeds 61,000,000, a record high, and unemployment is only 2,227,000, mostly accounted for by workers changing from one job to another.

In 1933 average earnings of workers employed in manufacturing was \$16.72 a week. By June of this year the average weekly earnings had reached \$52.81, although Republican scuttling of the OPA cut deeply into the purchasing power of the weekly pay envelope.

Millions of workers, thrown out of their jobs by the Republican depression which started in October, 1929, had little or no savings, inadequate relief, and soup kitchens and bread lines to feed many of them.

Today large numbers of workers are protected by insurance, provided by the Social Security Act, against unemployment and old age. Under such insurance workers and their widows and families have received payments of \$2,041,000,000 to cushion them against economic privations.

One of the big lessons taught by the depression was the need of minimum wage and overtime legislation. The Fair Labor Standards Act met this need by placing a floor under wages, a ceiling over straight-time hours and banning oppressive child labor.

The Wagner-Peyser Act set up a nation-wide system of free employment offices. Under its provisions the U. S. Employment Service made some 100,000 job placements without cost to work-

By THOMAS E. DEWEY,
Governor of the State of New York

Representative leaders of American Federation of Labor unions have assured me that the Dewey-Warren ticket will have substantial labor support at the polls November 2. I find this very gratifying, and I welcome such support. I interpret it to mean that the great teachings of the founder of the American labor movement, Samuel Gompers, still live and have meaning for those who have inherited his mission.

Gompers laid down a political axiom for labor which has endured the test of time when he said, "Reward your friends and punish your enemies." I am prepared to rest my case with labor on that basis.

Gompers was against the Socialist experimenters and Communist wreckers of his day, and I believe he would be against them in their modern guise of reformers and collectivists. With sharp insight, he recognized them as the greatest menace to free trade unionism.

In the last five years the state of New York has had no place in its government for "party-liners" or fellow-travelers. And your next administration in Washington will not make them any more welcome. The new national administration which takes office next January will never make the mistake of assuming that men like Lee Pressman speak for the American working man. Nor will that administration play into the hands of such elements by so far forgetting the rights of all our citizens as to purpose that strikes be broken by drafting men into the Army.

In contrast with such policies, there is the record of administration in the largest industrial state in the nation during the past six years. We have always taken pride in the fact that the American labor movement was born in New York and has now been accorded a life-size place in the community. We have got along well with the AFL people in our state and, as the annual reports of the New York State Federation of Labor will show, they have got along well with us. More than once in these recent years they have found occasion to point out that New York State has led the country in fields of social progress in which labor has an abiding interest. This progress has been a co-operative undertaking in which we all had common objectives.

In achieving this progress, we have been ever mindful that if any advance was worth fighting for it had to meet the test of the public interest. There is no class legislation on the statute books of New York. An advantage for management over labor or for labor over the public does not meet that test.

When labor is adequately insured against the threat of unemployment and against the hazards of the job, the whole community is stronger. When labor relations are handled in a fair, impartial way, with a minimum of coercion and a maximum of co-operation, and the result is fewer strikes and industrial disputes, all the people benefit. Measures to achieve these ends are labor policies only in a technical sense. They are, in fact, matters of the broadest public interest.

It is not only labor which benefits in New York from the fact

NORTH DAKOTA LAW FORBIDS CLOSED SHOP; RESTRICTIVE LA. LAW OUT

Washington. — North Dakota voters in a referendum held on June 29 approved two industrial relations laws passed by the legislature in 1947.

One of these measures bans the closed shop; the other is a general regulatory law forbidding boycotts, requiring a strike vote and cooling-off period before a strike may be called, and also requiring the registration of unions. This is revealed in an article appearing in the September issue of Labor Information Bulletin, publication of the U. S. Department of Labor.

However, in Louisiana, the general trend toward restrictive labor legislation was reversed when a regulatory law passed in 1946 was repealed. The effect of the repeal is to restore to full effect the state anti-injunction law. The 1946 law had permitted the issuance of injunctions against unauthorized strikes in violation of contracts, against violence or threats of violence, and against combinations with employers in restraint of trade.

An act was also passed in Louisiana which prohibits the transportation of strikebreakers into the state.

In three other states the voters will pass upon closed-shop proposals at the November election. The states include Arizona, Massachusetts, and New Mexico.

Federal action in the labor field was highlighted by the passage by Congress of amendments to the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. The amended act increases benefits payable to workmen and to their dependents in case of death—the only improvement from the standpoint of compensation or payment to the workers or their families since the act was passed in 1927.

"More dishes, Annie?" called Mrs. Brown.

"No," came the faint answer, "less."

NATION NEEDS WELL-BUILT \$6,000 HOUSE, SAYS FOLEY, HEAD OF HOUSING AGENCY

Saratoga Lake, N. Y. — Wide-scale production of a good \$6,000 house is a crying need of this nation, Raymond M. Foley, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, told members of the New York State Savings and Loan League at a meeting here.

To achieve that goal, Mr. Foley urged closer co-operation between government and private industry to make the most of new financing incentives contained in recent legislation.

In substantiation of his statement on the need for lower-priced homes, Mr. Foley pointed out that about one-half of the families of the United States have incomes of less than \$3,000 a year and cannot well afford to pay more than \$6,000 for their homes.

For families in that income bracket who cannot buy homes, he declared the \$6,000 figure still obtained, for most of such families ought not to be required to pay rents higher than needed to support that sort of cost figure.

"Another very large group of our families," Mr. Foley continued, "have regular incomes that cannot properly support houses costing more than \$9,000 to \$9,000, but there is a relatively limited proportion of the population that can afford to go to the \$10,000 and higher cost levels."

"Yet in many areas of the United States, especially in the northern half of this country, relatively little new housing for families needing two or more bedrooms is being built to sell below \$9,000. Most of it in some areas is in the \$10,000 and-up bracket."

Mr. Foley said that the Housing and Home Finance Agency has as one of its major objectives active co-operation with industry in expansion of research for improvement of construction techniques and the lowering of housing costs.



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THOMAS E. DEWEY

AFL Issues Call For Convention

To All Affiliated Unions,
Greetings:

Washington, D. C.
August 16, 1948

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the Sixty-seventh Convention of Labor will be held in the Hall of Mirrors, Netherland-Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning at 10 o'clock Monday morning, November 15, 1948, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the Convention shall have been completed.

World War II was ended on V-J Day, August 14, 1945. Hitler, Mussolini and their allies were decisively and definitely defeated. The governments they represented surrendered unconditionally. When this took place working people throughout the world shared with all other classes of people their happiness over the great victory which was won. We thought we saw the dawn of a new day—the termination of wars and the establishment of international peace and security. We felt sure that the United States and its allies, who had fought together and sacrificed together, would quickly unite in reaching agreement upon terms which the defeated nations would be required to meet and in establishing peace and security throughout the world.

As we look at the picture now, three years after the end of World War II, we realize how keen is our disappointment over the failure of those who won the war to agree upon terms of international peace and security. Failure to reach agreement during the period of three years is well-nigh tragic. The hopes within the breasts of the masses of the people which ascended high when the war was won have descended low because of failure on the part of the United Nations to settle one single question within a three-year period. The question is now being asked whether, instead of universal peace, we are facing World War III. The members of the American Federation of Labor insist and demand now as they have at each convention held since the conclusion of World War II, that an agreement shall be promptly reached which will definitely and irrevocably provide for international peace and guaranteed security.

The enemies of labor have continued their aggressive drive against us through the enactment of anti-labor legislation during the past year. We have met this challenge through the mobilization of our resources, our collective strength, and an unyielding determination to fight with all the power at our command against the attacks which have been made upon us. We are challenging the validity of much of this legislation in the courts. We are refusing to acquiesce in

the acceptance of this destructive, hostile legislation. We can and we must bring about the defeat of members of Congress and the State Legislators who voted to place the legal yoke of bondage around the necks of the working man and women of the nation.

The problem of inflation has become more intensified. It is worse than it was when we met in our Sixty-sixth Convention a year ago. Prices for the necessities of life have risen beyond the point of toleration. Congress has failed to deal with the serious housing problem, minimum wage legislation, social security and health insurance, support to education, and legislation for the enjoyment of civil rights by all classes of people.

All this makes it clear that this convention will be called upon to deal with most difficult and serious problems. We must face them heroically and courageously. We must speak directly for the millions of working men and women whom we directly represent and for millions of others whom we will truthfully speak for indirectly. The history of the American Federation of Labor and the record which it has made justifies the conclusion that all of the problems, national and international, economic and social, which will be presented to the convention will be dealt with in a constructive, courageous and inspiring way.

REPRESENTATION
Representation in the Convention will be on the following basis: From National or International Unions, for less than 4,000 members, one delegate; 4,000 or more, two delegates; 8,000 or more, three delegates; 16,000 or more, four delegates; 32,000 or more, five delegates; 64,000 or more, six delegates; 128,000 or more, seven delegates; 256,000 or more, eight delegates; and so on; and from Central Bodies and State Federations, and from local trade unions not having a National or International Union, and from Federal Labor Unions, one delegate.

Only bona fide wage workers who are not members of, or eligible to membership in, other Trade Unions shall be eligible as delegates from Federal Labor Unions. Only those persons whose Local Unions are affiliated with Central Bodies or with State Branches and who are delegates to said Central Bodies or State Branches shall be eligible to represent City Central Bodies or State Branches in the Conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

Organizations to be entitled to representation must have obtained

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Are You REGISTERED?