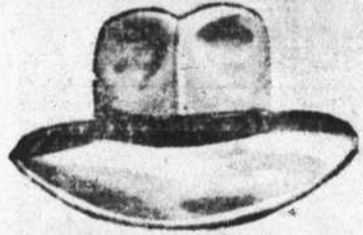


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**AFL TRANSIT WORKERS WIN PAY RAISE; PLEDGE NEW FIGHT ON ARBITRATION LAW**

Indianapolis.—Forced into compulsory arbitration under an antiunion Indiana law which labor is fighting as unconstitutional, the AFL's transit workers' union nevertheless emerged with a 6 per cent raise and improved working conditions in its contract with the Indianapolis Railways, Inc.

Despite the victory, attributed by union officials to the airtight case pressed by the Labor Bureau of the Middle West, the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America will continue its fight to outlaw the arbitration statute, enacted in 1947.

Repeal of the anti-union measure is pledged by the Democratic candidate for governor in the current election campaign.

Opposition to the act is based on its injection of government force into industrial relations. O. David Zimring, director of the Labor Bureau and general counsel for the Amalgamated, declared.

"For over a half century," he pointed out, "the Amalgamated has been a proponent of volun-

tary arbitration to settle all issues unresolved over the conference table.

"In Indianapolis itself, the same company and Division 1070 of the Amalgamated have enjoyed peaceful relations since 1936 with each contract providing for arbitration.

"How a compulsory arbitration law corrupts industrial peace, makes a mockery of collective bargaining and defeats the law's alleged purpose, is illustrated by the Indianapolis case.

"The 1947-48 contract expired May 1. Exactly three weeks later the new state law was invoked before genuine collective bargaining, the American way, had a chance of developing the outline of a new agreement much less erupt into disputes demanding the entry of outside force in what is regarded by intelligent management as well as by labor, as an unwarranted exercise of state power."

The arbitration award, retroactive to May 1, represents a \$500,000 gain for the 1,500 members of Division 1070. The 9 per cent raise increases operators from \$1.30 to \$1.42 an hour. An increase of from 1 to 4 cents an hour, in addition to the 9 per cent, was ordered for certain special classifications.

Another major gain is a modeled paid vacation schedule

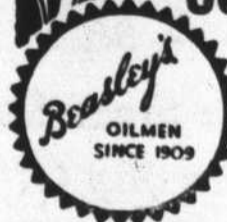
immediately benefiting almost half the working force. Previously limited to six days vacation for one year of service and 12 days for two years, the un-

ionist now also will receive 14 days after five years and 16 days after 15 years.

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