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TEXTILE WORKERS SET FOR SOUTHERN DRIVE

Taft-Hartley Repeal Nears Showdown; Anti-Labor Coalition Looms

Committee May Approve Truman Labor Measure

Washington, D. C., March 2.—With public hearings over, the Senate Labor Committee is now hammering out the final draft of the Thomas bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and expects to report it out to the Senate within two weeks for debate and action.

It is considered certain that the majority forces on the committee will approve a repeal measure satisfactory to organized labor. Only minor amendments to the administration-supported Thomas bill, which was indorsed by the American Federation of Labor, are expected to be made.

However, at least three minority members of the committee were reported working on substitute bills which merely "modify" the Taft-Hartley Act instead of repealing it. Senators Taft, Ives and Morse—all Republicans—are planning to wage bitter fights in the Senate to have that body adopt their proposals instead of the committee bill. Efforts also are being made to get the three senators to agree to a single substitute bill.

If that happens, there is considerable danger of a coalition between Republicans and some Southern Democrats in support of the Taft-Ives-Morse substitute.

AFL President William Green, Vice President George Harrison and other labor leaders were preparing to undertake a vigorous radio campaign to mobilize renewed public support for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

President Truman, himself, in his Jackson Day address, declared that he may be forced to "get on a train again" and take his case directly to the people, as he did during the last campaign, if Congress attempts to thwart his campaign promises and platform pledges for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the enactment

of liberal social and economic legislation.

Meanwhile, it appeared likely that a Southern filibuster against the administration's anti-filibuster rule for the Senate might crop up and delay all legislative action in Congress. (It has cropped up as of Monday of this week).

Labor scored heavily in the final testimony submitted to the Senate Labor Committee on the Thomas bill, even though industry spokesmen had the floor most of the time.

At the conclusion of statements submitted by representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, Senator Morse bluntly accused them of adopting an "un-Christian attitude" toward labor and refusing to make an inch in support of legislation which would give the nation's workers a fair break. This charge, coming from an independent Republican Senator whose views on Taft-Hartley repeal differ in many respects from those of organized labor, put a devastating crimp into the validity of the testimony of the industry witnesses.

One of the most effective witnesses for T-H repeal was Gerhard Van Arkel, former counsel for the National Labor Relations (Continued On Page 4)



Fleming Asks U. S. To Acquire Needed Public Building Sites

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT IS LOWEST IN TEN YEARS

San Francisco, Cal.—In January of this year the sharpest drop in California factory employment since 1939 was reported by the State Director of Industrial Relations, Paul Scharrenberg. He described the reductions as both seasonal and nonseasonal.

The percentage of layoffs amounted to about 5 per cent, cut the number of production workers from 480,700 in December to 457,600 by the end of January.

Mr. Scharrenberg said the primary steel industry appeared to be an exception to the downward trend.

In industries making durable goods, the layoffs were greatest in lumber, iron and steel fabricating machinery, furniture and shipbuilding. Food products and apparel were most affected in the nondurable goods industries.

CANADIAN WORKERS SAY PAY HIKE IS ESSENTIAL

Toronto.—Canadian wage-earners are campaigning vigorously for pay increases this year in order to combat the severe reduction in the value of the worker's wage dollar which has taken place in recent years.

Soaring living costs are creating dissatisfaction and unrest, the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress declares. It is "urgently necessary," the Congress adds, to secure substantial wage increases during 1949 "in all industries and trades."

Canadian workers are not sharing equitably in the vast production improvements made during the past decade, the CTLC charges.

While labor in Canada, in seeking higher wages, has to appear before government boards and plead for just treatment, a brief prepared by the CTLC points out that industry is "practically uncontrolled" and increases prices "arbitrarily."

Washington, D. C.—A \$40,000,000 program for the purchase of sites and preparation of plans for currently needed federal buildings throughout the country was advocated by Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, testifying before a Senate Subcommittee on Public Works.

"For years I have been preaching to the States and their political subdivisions that they ought to have plans on the shelf prepared, ready to go when the time comes when employment is needed in the construction industry," General Fleming said. "I would be remiss in my duty if I did not take the same position with respect to the Federal government."

"It takes a considerable period to acquire a site and design adequate plans for a Federal building. I recall that when I was executive officer of the Public Works Administration at the start of the Roosevelt administration and when we had \$3,000,000,000 for a public works program it was 18 months before we had 100,000 men at work on that program because we had to go through a process of acquiring sites and preparing plans.

"So, on this proposed legislation, since I have preached it for States and political subdivisions, I think we certainly should acquire sites and complete plans in the Federal government. We cannot prepare plans unless we have the sites, because we cannot prepare plans for an unknown site.

"While our construction industry is at present almost fully occupied, although we do find people in the building trades now looking for jobs, the time will come, I am very much afraid, when we will not have as full employment in this industry as we have today. Some of the unemployment could be taken up with public buildings, Federal public structures and Federal and non-Federal public works.

"Our population since the last building program has risen about 11 or 12 per cent and in some sections a great deal more. Post- (Continued On Page 4)

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS INJUNCTION AGAINST FIRM VIOLATING LABOR STATUTE

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court ruled that the Federal Wage-Hour Administrator may use a civil contempt action to force an employer to pay back wages which the administrator contends were unlawfully withheld.

Justice Douglas delivered the 7-2 ruling. Justice Frankfurter wrote the dissent, joined by Justice Jackson.

The ruling specifically affects the Jacksonville Paper Co., of Jacksonville, Fla.

A United States District Court in 1943 enjoined the company from violating the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Federal wage-hour law. Three years later the administrator asked the District Court to hold the company in civil contempt on the ground that it used various practices to violate the law.

The District Court found violations by the company. It said, however, that since its earlier judgment had not pointed specifically to any particular practices as illegal, the court could not find the company in contempt. "To constitute civil contempt," the District Court said, "there must be some evidence of a willful and intentional violation of a court order."

GLOVE WORKERS OBTAIN FIVE PER CENT INCREASE

Ballston Spa, N. Y.—An 8 per cent wage increase for employees of the Acksand Knitting Co. here has been announced following negotiations between the company and Local 137 of the AFL Glove Workers' Union.

Earl Willi, local president, said the old contract would be continued "with some changes and adjustments." The new contract, which includes a union shop agreement, would become effective Feb. 1, he said.

Executive Board Calls For \$1 Minimum Wage

Atlanta, March 2.—The United Textile Workers of America, AFL, Executive Council, concluded its mid-winter sessions in Atlanta with resolutions urging the organization of all textile workers in the South and a \$1.00 per hour minimum wage law. "Our Southern Organizing Drive," said Anthony Valente, international president of UTA-AFL, "is the most important job ahead of us. We have been overwhelmed with requests for organization in recent days."

DANIEL T. CRUSE TO AID SHISHKIN IN PARIS

Washington, D. C.—Daniel T. Cruse has been appointed as trade union relations representative on the staff of Boris Shishkin, chief of the labor division of the Office of the Special Representative in Paris. This was announced by Economic Co-operation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman.

Cruse, who is president of Local 794 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, Chicago, has left for Paris to take up his new duties. He will be responsible for maintaining close relations with European trade unions with a view to bringing to them a better understanding of the European Recovery Program and enlisting their cooperation in the plan.

From 1944 to 1947, Cruse was labor relations adviser to the Chicago regional administrator of the Office of Price Administration. He had long experience in labor relations problems, having represented electrical workers on the Illinois Central railway system under the National Railway Labor Act and employees of the Postal Telegraph Company under the Wagner Act.

The resolution urging the organization of all Southern textile workers condemned the "raiding" CIO tactics and charged that the CIO was seeking to bolster its faltering drive by efforts to take over AFL locals.

The UTA-AFL Board called for re-enactment of the Wagner Act with certain amendments. One amendment was the demand for the extension of the non-communist affidavit to employers as well as union officers. The UTA-AFL Board was not opposed to this Taft-Hartley feature if it would apply to employers also. It was understood that support of this requirement was forthcoming because it would exclude 11 CIO Unions still under communist domination or which are pro-communist would not be able to use the services of the NLRB.

The UTW Council lashed out at the Soviet satellites of Hungary and Bulgaria and denounced them as Communist gangster states for their destruction of freedom of worship, the right to religious organization and freedom of conscience, as exemplified in the trial and sentencing of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary and the trial of the Protestant leaders in Bulgaria.

The Board also went on record in favor of the North Atlantic Pact which is currently up for discussion between United States and Canada, and the western (Continued on Page 3)

President Hits 'Diehards' Blocking Liberal Laws

Washington, D. C., March 2.—President Truman, in a slashing attack against "die-hard reactionaries," accused them of trying to cripple labor unions and thwart his entire program of progressive social legislation.

In his Jackson Day "victory dinner" address here, the President threatened to stomp through the country to force congressional enactment of his campaign pledges if obstruction by "the special interests" continues.

Mr. Truman emphatically repeated his support of the entire Democratic platform, with special stress on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, which, he said, "an insult to the working men and women of this country."

The special interests, he said, "are using every trick they can think of to defeat our labor policy," but he warned that they could not succeed because "all the oratory in the world won't change a bad law into a good law."

Obviously hitting at Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, the President continued:

"The same die-hard reactionaries who want to cripple labor unions have also started a campaign of confusion against all our other measures for the welfare of the people. They say they are for extending and improving social security—but they call our proposals a bureaucratic system that will destroy the character of every American.

"They claim to be in favor of housing—but they say our low-rent housing program is a mistake because it does too much for low-income families.

"They make speeches about the American home—but they encourage landlords to lock out their tenants until rent control is repealed.

"They say they are in favor of good wages—but they argue that the minimum wage should be held down to a starvation level.

"They claim to be in favor of developing our great river basins—but they raise the old cry of 'super-state' against every practical step we propose."

He expressed confidence that, "despite efforts to confuse," the programs he espoused would be enacted.

Picket Signs Now Identify Enemies Of Chi Printers

Chicago, March 2.—Identification of strikebreaking typists by name and address on union picket signs has proved effective in the International Typographical Union's strike against the major Chicago daily newspapers.

Since the printers struck on Nov. 24, 1947, the papers have continued to publish, substituting for movable type a 'rev' process. Typists write stories in flush columns on vari type machines. The stories are then pasted up into pages, the pages are photographed, and the picture is printed.

Three weeks ago, the union began experimenting with a picketing technique beamed directly at the varitypists who were scabbing on the union printers. Though begun on a small scale, it will be extended if the publishers persist in their stubborn resistance to the union's demands, said John Colbert, strike committeeman.

The experiment began with the varitypists in only one department of one newspaper, the classified advertising department of the Chicago Tribune, biggest and richest of the five struck papers.

Varitypists crossing the pickets' line of march in front of The Tribune Tower one fine morning saw their names and addresses in large type on the pickets' signs, along with Jack London's definition of a scab.

A husband who saw his wife's name on a picket sign asked the pickets if they would remove it if he went into the building and brought her out. They would. He did. Several varitypists quit outright. Several others reported themselves ill, and did not show up for work.

The Tribune, self-styled champion of freedom of the press, complained bitterly when the union turned on the pressure with a picketing and card-passing campaign near the homes of a few selected varitypists.

Still going strong after 15 months, the printers' strike is probably the longest continuous strike of its size by any skilled craft in history, although the same local union's strike against the huge Donnelly printing house, begun in 1905, never has been called off officially.

Issues of wages and jurisdiction are still the principal obstacles to settlement of the strike against the dailies.