

# Modernization Of Social Security Law Is Urged

Washington.—AFL President William Green led a contingent of top officials of American Federation of Labor affiliates who urged Congress to revise the present social security system to provide higher benefits, extended coverage and the introduction of a disability insurance program.

Stepping up its 10-year campaign, 20 spokesmen for AFL unions presented a concerted, united-front stand before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of bill H. R. 2893 which contains many of the changes proposed by the AFL to bring the nation's social security system in accord with present-day economic conditions.

Stressing the long and continued interest of labor organizations in improving "our base social security," Mr. Green warned in his testimony that if Congress fails to expand old-age and survivors' insurance, labor "will have no other recourse" than to demand welfare plans from private employers.

Endorsing President Truman's recommendation that the present scale of benefits be almost doubled, Mr. Green said labor is ready to pay its share of the additional money required.

Arguing for extension of coverage of the social security system to groups of employees excluded under the present law, the AFL leader said:

"There remains no insurmountable administrative obstacle to including the self-employed and other groups which were left out of the original program for administrative reasons. Farm workers and domestic workers should be included. Likewise, there is no longer any reason for excluding the employees of states and their political subdivisions or the employees of nonprofit and charitable institutions as the risks encountered by these workers are the same as those confronting others. "A common base of protection through social insurance for all gainfully occupied citizens is in the public interest."

Mr. Green specifically excluded railway employees and Federal workers from coverage of the law since they are accorded protection under separate systems especially designed to meet their needs.

Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of social insurance activities for the AFL, backed up Mr. Green's testimony with specific details concerning proposed changes in the law to accomplish the goals outlined by the AFL chief. In addition he urged liberalization of the eligibility requirements under the present law so that new workers coming under the system are not penalized unduly by paying contributions for a number of years only to fail to qualify for any benefits because of insufficient service.

Mr. Cruikshank also called for the incorporation into the social insurance program of a disability insurance scheme to protect wage earners from the risk of wage loss because of physical disability. He urged adoption of a Federal program to cover such risks not taken care of by State workmen's compensation laws, and at the same time to provide a rehabilitation program for disabled workers.

Included among the top officers of AFL affiliates were: James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Metal Trades Department; A. L. Spradling, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees; Larry Taylor, vice president of the International Typographical Union; William H. Cooper, secretary-treasurer of the Building Service Employees' Union; Lester Washburn, president of the United Automobile Workers, and H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union.

# Labor Will Help Sell Savings Bonds In May

(Washington Teamster)

A new treasury campaign to sell Series E savings bonds to working people—a drive backed by Organized Labor throughout the Nation—will get under way next month. May 16 is the date set for the Opportunity Bond drive. John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury, will be in Seattle on May 2 to confer with leaders in the campaign. He will be the guest of honor at a luncheon at the Olympic hotel during his stay here.

The new savings bond campaign has the indorsement of Labor because it will help build economic strength, encourage thrift and thus act as a spur to production. It will also help in the management of huge war debt and in adjusting the economy of the United States to withstand the strain of post-war commitments.

In addition to these facts, the drive will go far toward shutting off foolish buying at fantastic prices and will therefore help to stabilize business and industry by putting cash into savings for the future. As in the past, the treasury department looks to the working people of America to put up a great share of the money to buy the new bonds.

Since the war there has been an alarming shrinkage in the number of saving bonds held by working people. Large sums have gone into things that were held at high prices, and this has given impetus to the inflationary swing.

If more working people—members of Unions—will buy bonds now that not only will improve their own financial future, but will help to place business on a sound basis and prices on a level the public can pay.

Union Teamsters are urged to prepare to buy Opportunity Savings Bonds in the coming campaign.

## COAL EXPORTS TO EUROPE REDUCED TO TEN MILLION TONS

An estimated 10 million tons of coal, less than a week's normal output of bituminous in the United States, will meet western Europe's import requirements from this country during the 1949-50 fiscal year, according to the European Co-operation Administration.

Gradually increasing production of European coal miners has cut imports of coal from the United States from 37 million tons in 1947, to 18 million tons in 1948, to 16 million tons in the current fiscal year, and finally to the new low figure of 10 million tons for the year starting July 1, 1949.

ECA officials state that all essential industries in the Marshall Plan nations of Europe now have a sufficient supply of coal for basic operations, but increased coal production in Europe is still a major goal of the recovery program. Output rose to 398 million tons last year but this was still 61 million tons below the prewar average.

Belgium and France are already either above or close to prewar rates of production and substantial increases are anticipated in both Zize, Germany, and England to bring total output to within 18 million tons of average prewar output for Europe's coal-producing nations included in the recovery program.

## JESUS, KEEP ME HUMBLE

O dear Jesus, keep me humble As I journey on life's way; May I never fret nor grumble At what other folks may say; Nor be peevish, cross and fretful When I'm tried by what they do;

Neither let me be forgetful When they prove their love is true.

Keep me humble, meek and lowly

Like the saints of other days, Who were prayerful, strong and holy,

From whose hearts there rang true praise For Thy goodness, love and blessing,

And for leadership Divine, Which they glorified in possessing, Causing them to shout and shine.

Keep me humble so Thy graces May attract some other soul From the evil, wicked places

That would keep him from life's goal,

And may lead him to the altar Where he'll give his life to Thee,

And be strong and never falter As he braves life's rugged sea. Walter E. Isenhour.

High Point, N. C.

## Not So High

Mrs. Henpeck: "Everything is going up."

Mr. Henpeck: "Oh, I wouldn't say that. For instance, there's your opinion of me, my opinion of you, and the neighbors' opinion of us both."

I know a place where I can rest again! Lonely? Ah, well—I know the aching blight; But now,—I've Jesus with me day and night!

Burdens? I have them; oft they press me sore, And then,—I lean the harder, trust the more.

Worthy? Oh, no! The marvel of it is That I should know such boundless love as His!

And so, I'm rich; with Christ I am "joint heir," Since He once stooped my poverty to share. —Edith Lillian Young.

"Attend your church," the parson cries, To church each fair one goes; The old go there to close their eyes, The young to eye their clothes.

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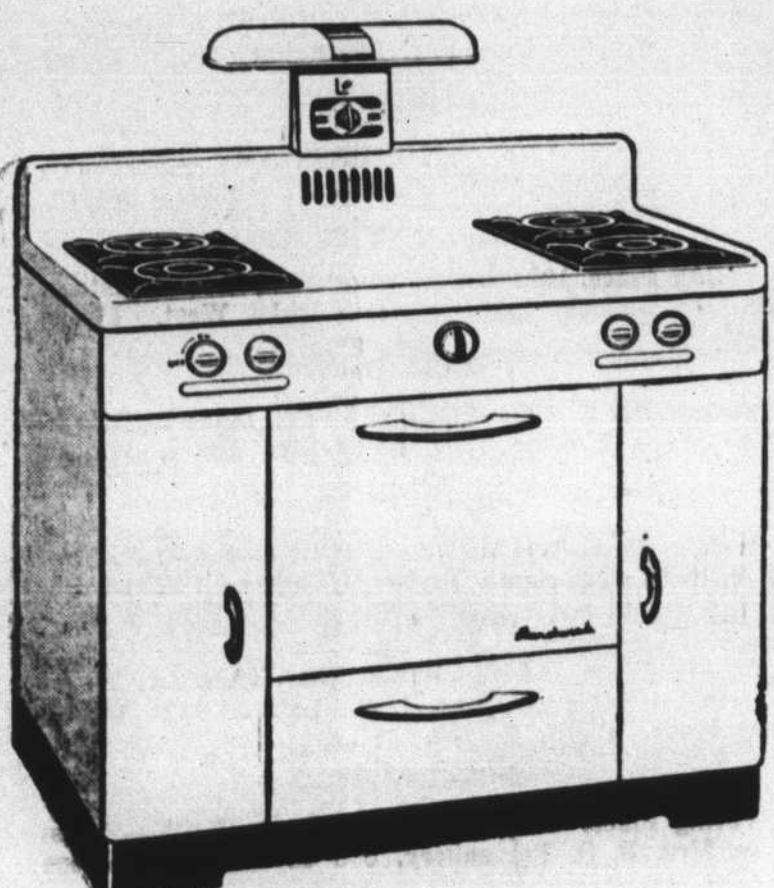
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