

WOOD BILL GOES BACK TO THE COMMITTEE

Housing Starts Decline Below That Of Year '48

WASHINGTON.—Construction of new homes in the first quarter of 1949 showed a drop of 12 per cent below the number of units started last year, according to reports prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At the same time, the BLS said, expenditures for new construction, totaling \$3,500,000,000, represented a gain of 5 per cent over the 1948 figures.

In the employment field, the report showed 1,824,000 workers employed on contract construction projects as of the middle of March, a gain of 19,000 over the similar month a year ago.

For the month of March alone, the BLS said that new home construction spurted seasonally but failed to equal the upturn noted in 1948. During the month, builders started 62,000 nonfarm dwelling units, a gain of 35 per cent over February but 19 per cent below the number started a year ago.

Against this disappointing showing for 1949, while the housing shortage remains acute, the BLS reported that the year 1948 was a near-record one for housing activity. Complete reports of housing starts boosted the year's total to 931,300 units. This is a

(Continued on Page 4)

May 8 Mother's Day

When God looked down upon the earth
And chose to put new blessings there,
Gifts from above
To show His love,
And lighten earthly joy and care,
He gave the sky the sun-set glow;

Gave fragrance to the lily's blow;
Gave laughter gay
To children's play;
And then to every yearning soul,
He gave that gift of tenderest worth—
A mother.

Mother O' Mine

One calm, bright, sweet sunny day an angel stole out of heaven and came down to this old world, and roamed field and forest, city and hamlet; and just as the sun went down he plumed his wings and said: "Now my visit is out, and I must go back to the world of light, but before I go I must gather some mementos of my visit here"; and he looked over into a beautiful flower garden and said, "How lovely and fragrant these flowers are," and he plucked the rarest roses, and made a bouquet, and said, "I see nothing more beautiful and fragrant than these; and I will take them with me." But he looked a little farther and there saw a little bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked babe, smiling into its mother's face, and he said, "Oh, that baby's smile is prettier than this bouquet; I will take that too." Then he looked just beyond the

cradle, and there was a mother's love pouring out like the gush of a river, toward the cradle and the baby, and he said, "Oh, that mother's love is the prettiest thing I have seen on earth; I will carry that, too!" With the three treasures he winged his way to the pearly gates, and lit just on the outside, and said "Before I go I will examine my mementos," and he looked at the flowers and they had withered; he looked at the baby's smile and it had faded away; he looked at the mother's love and there it was in all its pristine beauty and fragrance. He threw aside the withered flowers and the faded smile and winged his way through the gates and led all the hosts of heaven and said, "Here is the only thing I found on earth that would keep its fragrance all the way to heaven—A MOTHER'S LOVE."—(Popular Lectures of Sam P. Jones.)

Wins In Council Race



CLAUDE L. ALBEA
Mr. Albea lives at 1911 Ashland Avenue. He has served as a City Councilman since 1931 with the exception of the years 1945 to 1947 when he did not run for re-election. He is at present a member of the City Council.

Recommitted By Narrow House Vote of 212 to 209

WASHINGTON.—The Wood labor bill to re-enact most of the Taft-Hartley law was junked today as the House sent it back to committee by the hair's-breadth margin of 212 to 209. This surprise reversal of yesterday's vote by which the House accepted the bill, 217 to 203, was hailed by Truman Democrats as a tactical victory. It gave them more time to reform their ranks and try again to repeal major features of the T-H law.

Supreme Court Frees States To Stop Slowdowns

WASHINGTON.—The Supreme Court this week ruled that States are free to ban the slowdown as a labor union tactic.

The National Labor Relations Board asked for a rehearing because it said the court's February 28 opinion had a "seriously adverse" effect on administration of the National Labor Relations act.

The AFL-United Auto Workers, which was directly involved, also asked reconsideration, as did the CIO.

In its 5-4 decision the Supreme Court ruled that Wisconsin acted within its rights in banning a slow-down in which union members left their work without notice on 27 occasions over a period of several months. They sought to force an agreement to new contract demands.

The government contended that Wisconsin's action invaded a field which Congress specifically staked out for NLRB jurisdiction. It said the board has not itself ruled on the legality of the type of slow-down involved.

"The court's opinion also impairs the scheme established by Congress for uniform interpretation and administration of national labor relations policy and permits the erection of local barriers to the effectuation of national objectives," the government contended.

Its brief was filed on behalf of the NLRB by Solicitor General Philip P. Pearson.

But all sides recognized that the victory was tactical only. I left the Taft-Hartley act, bitterly denounced by President Truman and labor unions, still on the statute books. Only the future could tell whether the administration would succeed in altering it substantially.

On the Senate side today, Senator Taft introduced a bill to "retain the best features of the Taft-Hartley law." He said it would preserve 22 important provisions while making 28 changes.

Today's tense vote in the House was the climax to months of maneuvering and bitter fighting.

The administration had produced a bill, known as the Thomas-Lesinski measure, to repeal the Taft-Hartley act and revive the New Deal Wagner act with some changes.

Deciding that this measure had no chance in the House, Speaker Rayburn produced a compromise. This would have retained some features of the T-H law, notably the 80-day injunctions to stall off "national emergency strikes."

Much behind-the-scenes persuasion preceded Wednesday's vote, which reversed Tuesday's decision.

Tuesday 146 Republicans joined 71 Democrats—all from the South—in beating down the combined efforts of 180 Truman Democrats, 22 Republicans, and one American-Laborite.

In Wednesday's vote, 193 Democrats, 18 Republicans and one American-Laborite voted to recommit the Wood bill. Against them were 62 Democrats and 147 Republicans.

Thus the administration actually picked up 13 Democratic votes and lost four Republican tallies. On the other side, the GOP-Dixie bloc gained one Republican vote and lost nine Democratic votes.

(The Carolinas' House delegation)

(Continued On Page 4)

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.

Indorsing 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.

WINS SECOND TERM



SANDY JORDAN

WBT RADIO TECHNICIANS WIN IN ELECTION VOTE

The technical employees of the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting company Monday voted to have their union, Local 1229, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, designated as their bargaining agent, in accordance with provisions of the National Labor Relations act.

The election was conducted at the Wilder building offices of the company under the direction of Albert Yanak, representative of the National Labor Relations board.

Of the 16 persons eligible to take part in the vote, two failed to vote, two voted against the union, and 12 voted in favor of having the union as official bargaining agent.

The employees taking part in the election work at WBT, WBT-FM, and WBT satellite.

N. C. APRIL FEDERAL TAX RECEIPTS DOWN

GREENSBORO.—Federal tax collections in North Carolina last month fell more than \$23 million behind those of April, 1948.

The sharp drop in revenue followed a record-setting month in March, when collections exceeded those of any month in the history of the district collector's office.

A report released this week by Charles H. Robertson, collector

(Continued On Page 4)

EDITORIAL

HOUSE "HANDCUFFS" TRUMAN IN LABOR BILL VOTE

The above is a typical headline which appeared in the daily press throughout the country one day this week, followed by the tragic story of how "Southerners Aid In Rebuff of President." In other words, the Wood bill which retained most of the Taft-Hartley act was passed by a vote of 217 to 203. Not much of a margin, but enough to cause it to be called a "smashing defeat for the Truman administration."

An Associated Press story tells us that "North Carolinians supporting the Wood bill were Representatives Barden, Bonner, Carlyle, Chatham, Doughton, Durham, Kerr and Redden with Bulwinkle paired for it."

"Voting against were Representatives Deane and Jones with Cooley paired in opposition."

"South Carolina's Bryson, Hare, McMillan, Richards and Rivers added their votes to the administration's defeat, with only Sims bucking the trend."

There are several hurdles for the Wood bill to overcome yet. The Senate will have to act on it, and President Truman will have to sign it, or veto it, the latter most likely, if it goes to him in the form it is now in, which would mean that the Taft-Hartley act will remain, as is, for some time. It is not likely the sponsors of the Wood bill can obtain a two-thirds vote to override the President's veto.

Labor is going to have another job cut out for it at the next congressional election, and if it makes the gains it made in the last election, things may change somewhat.

It is well to note that the A. P. story states that voting against were Representatives Deane and Jones, with Cooley paired in opposition.

Later events are awaited with much interest, and if ever Labor got busy, especially Organized Labor, now is the time. The vote of Hamilton C. Jones against the bill can be put down as a point in his favor with the Labor and administration forces.

Representative Jones stated in the Charlotte News Thursday afternoon (today) "that he voted for the Lesinski bill because he felt that the amendments to it introduced by Representative Sims of South Carolina and supported by the Administration leaders made it 'the best approach' to labor legislation." He added that he preferred to vote for the amended Lesinski bill "rather than to vote for the Wood bill which was supported largely by the members of the opposing party."

The Labor Journal commends the action taken by Congressman Jones and thinks it is an evidence that he is willing to stick by his party and also be fair to Labor in whatever legislative action may be taken.

A NEW BROOM IS GIVEN US

Now that our city election is a thing of the past, and with a "new broom" to "sweep clean" our City Hall, and put our local administration upon a "sound and workable basis," the general public can sit back and take things easy—maybe. The Victor Shaw ticket took five seats on the Council, with Sandy R. Jordan, coming in from the Greater Charlotte slate, and Basil M. Boyd, an oldtimer in politics, and former city attorney, "just coming in." So, while there is mostly a governing body of inexperienced members, The Journal believes that Charlotte will be well governed and that while many changes are to be looked for down City Hall way, we will go forward, for each and everyone will be guided. The Journal hopes, by an earnest desire to do that which is best in the forward march Charlotte is making.

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.