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Legislative Program

The American Federation of Labor will concentrate its efforts in the current session of Congress on obtaining re- ago. peal of the obnoxious Taft-Hartley Act, but this should not obscure the fact that there are many other major planks showing for 1949, while the housin the Federation's legislative program which vitally affect ing shortage remains acute, the the interests of American workers and for which we will fight unceasingly.

Therefore the Executive Council finds it advisable to housing starts boosted the year's make public at this time a summary of the outstanding total to 931,300 units. This is a measures included in the AFL's legislative objectives:

- 1. TAFT-HARTLEY ACT We favor outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act with simultaneous reenactment of the National Labor Relations Act. We also urge Congress to repeal the Hobbs Act and the Lea Act.
- 2. HOUSING-We seek enactment of a comprehensive the end of the war, close to two housing program. This includes rent control.
- 3. FOREIGN POLICY-We endorse the President's firm policy toward Russia as the only practical way to attain acceleration in housing activity eventual world peace. We want Congress to appropriate during this period has been more sufficient funds to permit the ECA to carry on its work pronounced in rura: nonfarm to a successful conclusion.
- 4. INFLATION CONTROL-We prefer voluntary methods to resumption of price controls, which should be employed only as a last resort. If taxes should be increased, crease in urban starts. In both the burden should be placed upon those best able to pay. 1947 and 1948, rural nonfarm Taxes in low-income groups, who were given the least measure of relief in the last tax law, should not be raised.
- 5. SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM-The Executive Council favors broad improvements in the social security system, a national health program, disability insurance, a na- profits, of all privately financed tionalized unemployment compensation system, increase of one-family houses rose 43 per the minimum wage to \$1 an hour with broader coverage of cent between 1946 and 1948 to the Fair Labor Standards Act, an effective billion-dollar \$7,875. This increase takes into program of Federal aid to education and continuation of account not only the rise in costs the school lunch program. Also we call upon Congress to building costs, but also changes adopt the President's Civil Rights program.
- 6. NATIONAL DEFENSE The Executive Council built." pledges full support of a truly adequate national defense program for all branches of the armed services. We feel also that Congress should give attetnion to the need for an expanded merchant ship construction program and the safeguarding of a strong American merchant marine by subsidies. This ship construction program should be fairly distributed in the varous areas of the country.
- 7. NATURAL RESOURCES—As part of our natonal defense program and as an essential step toward an expanding American economy, a constructive program for the development and protection of our natural resources should be adopted by Congress. This includes power development, soil conservation and reclamation, irrigation and flood control. We favor creation of river valley authorities, smilar to the outstandingly successful TVA, to do this job. We also call upon Congress to encourage development of research for the harnessing of atomic energy to industrial productive uses.
- GOVERNMENT EMPLOYE LEGISLATION Thh AFL will support legislation to raise the standards and improve the conditions of government employes.
- 9. LABOR DEPARTMENT—We favor transfer to this department of the functions and agencies which properly belong to it, to the end that the Department of Labor may once more become an effective instrument for the protection of the wage earners of the Nation.
- 10. There are any number of additional measures and proposals in which the Federation takes an active interest for or against. For instance, we will urge liberalization of the Displaced Persons Act, support the establishment of a National Science Foundation, etc. Therefore, the omission of any particular measure from this summary of major legislative objectives, should not and does not imply any. lack of interest on our part.

"The difference between a pre-judice and a conviction is that Housing Starts you can explain a conviction without getting mad."

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Labors Business Appreciated

tion projects as of the middle of March, a gain of 19,000 over the similar month a year ago.

Decline Below

That Of Year '48

truction 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 re-

ports prepared by the Bu-reau of Labor Statistics. At

the same time, the BLS said, expenditures for new construction, Totlaing \$3,500,-000,000, represented a gain

of 5 per cent over the 1948

In the employment field, the re-

port showed 1,824,000 workers

employed on contract construc-

WASHINGTON. - Cons-

. For the month of March alone, the BLS said that new home construction spurted seasonally but

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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

Against this disappointing BLS reported that the year 1948 was a near-record one for housing activity. Complete reports of 23-year record in housing activity, and is only 5,000 units below the all-time peak reached in 1925.

Reporting on other long-term developments, the BLS said:

"In the three full years since and one-half million new permanent nonfarm dwelling units have been put under construction. The housing, as shown by a 52 per cent increase in rural nonfarm starts between 1946 and 1948 compared with a 30 per cent inhousing accounted for 44 per cent of all new units put under con-

"The average construction cost, excluding land costs and builders' in the type of housing being



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Once again IVEY'S wishes to thank all our friends in Organized Labor for their continued and grateful loyal support and patronage.

IVEY'S