

WOLL WARNS ON RELAXING OF FIRM ANTI-RUSSIAN STAND

AFL CALLS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY IN NEW GERMANY

Berlin.—An American Federation of Labor official, speaking in German over a national radio hookup, warned the military government here recently that its policies must seek not only establishment of political democracy in Germany but industrial democracy as well.

Henry Rutz, special European representative of the AFL, addressing a labor-sponsored rally of some 200,000 persons in the Place of Freedom, asserted:

"Germany can become and remain a peaceful cooperator in the European community of nations if the former industrialists who assisted in waging the 2 world wars are not maneuvered back into their former positions of power."

He cautioned that "no industrial or financial magnates who have been friends and supporters of German militarism and Nazism should be appointed to any position of authority on the proposed boards of trustees which are to manage the Ruhr coal industries." The AFL has requested that trade unions receive equal representation with management in the composition of these boards.

Touching on the forthcoming Big Four negotiations on problems relating to Germany, Rutz warned against over-optimism, declaring:

"No final German settlement can be agreed to which fails to guarantee basic safeguards for the development of democracy within a unified Germany as well as guarantees against Russian pressure from without."

Rutz also discussed the impending conferences relative to the proposed organization of a new democratic world federation of free trade unions. Although the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions was "weakened" by the withdrawal of British and American representation, he said, "nevertheless this fifth column of Soviet dictatorship is still playing as brazen and active a role as ever in sabotaging world reconstruction and in promoting social and political chaos."

He emphasized that a "strong international trade union movement is necessary to rally the millions of workers opposed to WFTU tactics," adding:

"In such a new world organization the German trade union movement should be accepted as an equal. For we want the free workers of Germany to cooperate with the free workers of Europe and the free workers of the world in the establishment of world peace, social justice, and real understanding among nations."

Of the Atlantic Pact, Rutz stated:

"The AFL and the other trade union federations of democratic countries whole-heartedly endorsed the Atlantic Pact. Russia's conduct in Eastern Europe, which has violated every tenet of the United Nations charter, makes an alliance of the remaining free European nations necessary if world peace is to be maintained."

"Russia from now on will not be able to deal with one country at a time. An act of aggression on one free country will be dealt with as an act of aggression against all the signatories."

Rutz' speech was warmly received. Other speakers representing Berlin's 3 democratic political parties, promised to continue the battle against Communist coercion. The rally, in honor of May Day, was conducted by the UGO, the anti-Communist Trade Union Federation of Berlin.

In another part of the city, the FDGB, the Russian-controlled eastern sector labor federation, claimed a turnout of more than 300,000 in its demonstration. Some sources reported workers were virtually forced to attend. Some were promised rewards, it was said; others were threatened with loss of their jobs. Those who marched in the Communist parade were given coupons entitling them to 14 drinks of schnaps, extra textile and shoe coupons, special rates for beer and sweets and in some cases free meals.

THE NON-UNION man had applied for a job on the big construction project, but he didn't get it, because it was a union product. Then the man, perhaps sensing an emergency, began to inquire his way around.

"Just go right around that corner," a union carpenter told him, pointing, "Turn to the right and you'll see a sign on the door marked 'Gentlemen'. But don't pay any attention to the sign — just go right in!"

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for
AFL News Service

New York.—The AFL's Free Trade Union Committee warned Secretary of State Acheson and Congress that agreement by the Soviet Union to lift her Berlin blockade must not block "immediate formation of a West German democratic government" nor "should we make even the slightest concession to Russia's efforts to infiltrate and penetrate the Ruhr whose industries must serve only the welfare of a democratic Germany and the reconstruction of a united free Europe."

The committee, arm of the Labor League for Human Rights and headed by Matthew Woll, president, told government officials:

"We further warn against any move whatsoever to delay, vitalize or destroy the Atlantic Pact as an instrument for deterring, and if need be defeating the Russian imperialist aggressors. Nor should any member of Congress be fooled by this latest Soviet totalitarian trick into believing that it is no longer vitally urgent to implement the Atlantic Pact with adequate arms aid for its war-weakened adherents."

"We must never forget that the Atlantic alliance was made in Moscow—forced upon the liberty-loving nations in self-defense against the continued encroachments and aggression of pan-Slavic imperialism seeking world domination under the red flag of international Communism."

The committee statement declared that the counter-blockade which the 3 democratic powers adopted in self-defense "has dealt very severe damage to Russia's shabby economy."

GREATER HEALTH BENEFITS

Philadelphia.—Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra represented by Local 77 of the American Federation of Musicians won new health benefits and higher travel allowances under terms of a contract covering the 1949-50 season.

The new health clause grants musicians full pay for up to 4 weeks of illness, if they have less than 5 years of service with the orchestra. For each year more than 5, an additional week's pay is allowed.

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