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UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW DELIGHTS THROUGHS

Wage Increase Ruled Illegal; Ruling By The Supreme Court

WASHINGTON—A wage increase bigger than a labor union demanded was declared illegal by the Supreme Court recently because the employer failed to notify the union of the raise. The court ruled unanimously that when an employer is negotiating with a union on an increase, he can't grant a general increase without consulting the union. To do so, the court held, is a violation of the national labor relations act, which guarantees the right of collective bargaining.

The company involved was Crompton-Highland Mills, Inc., of Griffin, Ga. The CIO Textile Workers union had been certified as bargaining agent for workers in the plant, and negotiations were in progress for a contract.

Talks reached a stalemate December 19, 1945. Twelve days later Crompton-Highland granted a wage increase ranging from two to six cents an hour—more than the union had asked during negotiations. It did so without notifying the union in advance.

Justice Burton, delivering the court's opinion, said the occasion was clearly "appropriate for collective bargaining."

He said the circumstances would be different if a similar offer had been made by the employer during negotiations and had been rejected or left unaccepted by the union.

A wage increase then, he said "might well carry no disparagement of the collective bargaining proceedings."

Crompton-Highland argued that it granted the wage boost because the union had terminated negotiations and because an increase was necessary to keep a working force in a highly competitive field.

But the court accepted the findings of the National Labor Relations board that while the talks were at an impasse the union had not broken them off entirely.

"We do not have here," Burton said, "a case where the bargaining had come to a complete termination cutting off the outstanding invitation of the certified bargaining representative (the union) to bargain as to any new issue on such a matter as rates of pay."

The high tribunal's action reversed a ruling by the U. S. circuit court at New Orleans, which had refused to issue a decree enforcing the NLRB finding against the company.

The Supreme Court sent the case back to the circuit court with instructions to issue a decree. It said the lower court, may however modify the terms of the NLRB's order.

In another action today the court refused to extend the time in which Gerhart Eisler alien Communist may appeal his conviction on passport fraud charges.

He has until June 6 to file an appeal but the matter is now academic because Eisler has fled the country.

GREEN SUPPORTS NEW HOUSING MEASURE PROVIDING LOW-RENT HOMES FOR WORKERS

Washington. — AFL President William Green appealed to Congress to approve pending legislation which would enable "moderate income" workers' families to obtain decent housing at reasonable rents.

Mr. Green testified before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee's housing subcommittee in behalf of the Sparkman bill which would make possible low-interest government loans to building co-operatives.

The measure, he said, would be only an "experiment" toward helping families with an annual income between the \$2,000 and \$3,750 annual income brackets to obtain satisfactory living quarters. About 40 per cent of the nation's families fall within this income bracket, Mr. Green testified.

This would be a non-subsidized program, he emphasized, one which would not cost one cent of the taxpayers' money yet would provide acutely needed assistance to families who cannot qualify for the low-income public housing program but are too poor to buy or rent the high-priced housing now being constructed by private real estate interests.

"We think that a solution has been reached," Mr. Green told the Senate committee, "in the provisions of this bill which would make possible large-scale rental housing projects by co-operative and other nonprofit corporations. These projects would be financed by direct loans from the federal government at the going federal rate of interest (now 2½ per cent), plus ¼ of 1 per cent for administration, for an amortization period of up to 60 years, but not to exceed the useful life of the project.

"We firmly believe that this co-operative housing program will meet the practical test of providing decent housing that moderate income families can afford. Under this program total monthly payment or rents can be reduced to as low as \$50-\$60 by savings which would be achieved in at least 4 ways: (1) reduced monthly financing costs through the lower interest rate and the longer amortization period; (2) saving through the non-profit feature; (3) savings because of an extremely low vacancy rate comparable to the experience in public housing; and (4) reduced operating and maintenance expenses made possible by avoiding luxury services to tenants and arranging for a certain amount of tenant maintenance. In addition, states and localities could make major contributions toward the achievement of additional savings by granting partial or complete tax exemption to co-operative and non-profit housing groups set up under this program.

"The bill wisely provides for a new separate constituent unit within the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Co-operative Housing Administration, the head of which will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. We believe that this is a most significant feature of the bill, because without a separate constituent unit we are convinced that this pioneer program would never receive the recognition and independence so necessary for its success."

Throgs Attend Union Industries Show



Crowds like that above thronged the vast Public Auditorium in Cleveland to witness the spectacle presented by the 1949 version of the Union Industries Show, an annual event sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department to tell the public the story of successful labor-management relations. The photo shows the main floor of the exhibit hall. Similar scenes were the rule in a larger basement area.



Typical of the exhibits which drew the admiring glances of thousands of spectators was that of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters shown above. Union members are demonstrating the skill and techniques required in their trade.

1949 Spectacle Largest Ever Presented By AFL

Cleveland.—AFL President William Green led a host of top AFL and public officials who participated in the opening of the 1949 Union Industries Show heralded far and wide as the most practical demonstration of labor-management teamwork in the world. In colorful ceremonies here, Mr. Green cut the ribbon spanning the doors of the public auditorium to open officially the largest spectacle staged thus far by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department in co-operation with manufacturers of union-label products and suppliers of union services.

AFL SENDS FOOD TO BERLIN TO AID THE RAIL WORKERS

NEW YORK — Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's international labor relations committee, announced that the AFL has arranged to send \$5,000 worth of CARE food parcels to striking Berlin railroad workers.

This action is the latest gesture on the part of the American Federation of Labor which, through its relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, distributed during and since the war thousands of dollars worth of relief packages to free trade unionists in Europe who are battling against the infiltration tactics of Soviet Russia.

Announcing this action, Mr. Woll released the text of a cable sent to the U. G. O., the anti-Communist federation of labor in Berlin, which reads as follows:

"Please convey Berlin striking railroad workers our warmest solidarity, their courageous fight against Russian totalitarian oppressors and Moscow's menial German stooges, the Communist scabs, is vital phase of international labor struggle for social justice and human freedom. In token of our moral and material support we have arranged immediate shipment of \$5,000 worth of food in CARE parcels for strikers and their families. Long live free trade unionism throughout Germany and the world."

NLRB HANDICAPS LEWIS' DEMAND FOR A UNION SHOP

WASHINGTON. — Coal industry sources said today the recent National Labor Relations board decision forbidding John L. Lewis to demand a union shop gives them a potent weapon in negotiating a new contract. The NLRB ordered Lewis and his United Mine Workers union to refrain from demanding a union shop as part of any new coal agreement. He was directed to give his promise to comply by June 13.

19% RENT BOOST ALLOWED ON 98,608 RENTAL UNITS

Washington. — Landlords are getting a break under the new Federal Rent Control Act of 1949. Tighe E. Woods, housing expert, reported that in May and June 50,752 landlords' petitions were granted, increasing rents on 98,608 rental units. Rents were increased an average of \$6.50 per month per unit, or about 19 per cent, the announcement said.

Sixty per cent of the increases were granted on grounds of expenditures by landlords for major capital improvements and increases in services. Forty per cent were granted as hardship and inequity relief.

In the same two months, area rent offices handled 83,665 complaints from tenants. In 29,969 cases where violations were discovered, compliance was obtained. There were 11,871 overcharge cases in which landlords were required to pay \$949,576 in refunds to tenants and payment to the federal treasury.

Also, there were 12,121 cases in which the landlord had reduced essential services and were required either to restore the services or reduce the rent.

More than 20,000 certificates of eviction were issued throughout the country in the two-month period.

Mr. Green hailed the show as an "effective answer to the challenge of communism," in a brief address delivered to the throgs which waited to enter the corridors of the huge exhibit hall.

Participating with Mr. Green were Mayor Thomas A. Burke of Cleveland, who called the spectacle "one of the greatest public exhibits ever held in Cleveland," and I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department and director of the extravaganza. Their remarks were carried to additional millions of people over the nationwide network of the Mutual Broadcasting Co.

Within a matter of hours after the opening of the show, crowds estimated at nearly 30,000 persons worked their way past the 300 or more exhibits which covered every inch of the exhibit hall's 90,000 square feet of display space distributed over two floors. The aisles in the auditorium were constantly jammed as throgs paused to examine the examples of industrial products manufactured by skilled union workers.

Stressing the importance of the show, Mr. Green said that its purpose is to "emphasize to the American people that organized labor is willing to co-operate constructively with employers who treat their workers fairly." "We in the American Federation of Labor," he said, "are determined that our free enterprise system shall survive in America and that freedom and democracy shall not be obliterated by force in other nations of the earth."

Mr. Ornburn emphasized the value of the exposition in promoting good relations in the industrial field. He said:

"Through this unique enterprise, employes and employers form a new partnership which means industrial peace and increased production at wages which guarantees sufficient purchasing power to buy back the goods and services available. Thus, the Union Industries Show becomes the very symbol of America's prosperity."

Eye-catching exhibits ranged from a national contest among apprentice bricklayers for a \$500 prize for the best quality work produced. To a parade of models exhibiting the newest in fashions manufactured by members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Neatly-turned pottery, sparkling glassware, jewelry, leather goods and the myriad products of a giant bazaar illustrated the excellence of "union-made" products. For the first time outside of a factory the process of insulating copper wire with an extruded plastic cover was demonstrated by workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers employed by the General Cable Corporation.

As an example of union services, the AFL Laundry Workers Union set up and operated a complete modern laundry.

In another section of the hall white-clad bakery workers turned out cakes and pastries by the thousands which were sampled eagerly by the throgs. Cakes were given away every 15 minutes to holders of lucky number tickets distributed to the spectators.

This practice of handing out samples and souvenirs was followed by nearly every exhibitor. During the 5-day exhibit, it was (Continued on Page 4)

NOTICE

The reason this issue of The Journal is late is due to an extensive job of remodeling which has been going on in our plant since the first of May which put our facilities out of order until it was completed.

The back wall on our building was ready to topple over and the landlord was compelled to rebuild the wall at once. The need was so urgent that only little notice could be given us. While this work was underway we asked the landlord to make other improvements and from now on we will have The Journal to you on time each week.

For this delay we are deeply apologetic and thank our subscribers and advertisers for their patience. All back issues of The Journal will be coming to you in short order.

THE PUBLISHER.

When Editors Sell Out It's Not News, So Press Plays Down Illinois Scandal

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN, New York Correspondent for The AFL News Service

NEW YORK.—American press agencies and newspapers were rapped sharply by Don Hollenbeck, radio news analyst and commentator on his weekly program "CBS Views the Press," for suppression of a scandal story involving 51 Illinois editors and the defeated Republican governor, Dwight Green.

"The story and the way it was treated by the press," said Hollenbeck, a veteran newspaperman and foreign correspondent, "contribute to the history of American journalism one of its grimmest pages."

Last month, the Chicago Daily News and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch screamed on their front pages that a bunch of Illinois newspaper editors had been carried on the state government payrolls as well as columnists, employes and relatives of the editors for about 7 years and that more than half a million dollars had been paid out to these people who were given sinecures.

According to the expose, "most of the payrollees reported little or no service for their money except to print editorials and news stories from (Governor) Green's publicity mill."

The Milwaukee, Wis., Journal "called the whole thing a disgrace to the press and sent a man of its own to investigate."

"As the Journal said," Hollenbeck declared, "Whether the editors gave honest service for the money they collected was beside the point: the point was, the

criticism that we passed up for nearly two weeks a newspaper investigation about newspapers and their tie-up with a state government. Rightly or wrongly, the feeling arises that, if any other interests or organizations such as industry groups or labor unions had been involved, the story would have been all over the place without delay."

The International News Service (Hearst) said it didn't use the story because it considered it "of the expose variety," therefore outside the province of a news service and the United Press didn't run the story for almost three weeks.

"But there is involved here," said Hollenbeck, "more than the failure of news services to break stories out of state boundaries. It seems the reflex action was working: the ingrained tabu that nothing about a newspaper or a newspaperman should be considered news, and certainly not any hint of rascality."

"The most curious and interesting aspect of the entire case is the fact that one week after the story was out, the American Society of Newspaper Editors met in Washington and talked piously about what they might do to improve the press. So far as we can learn, the Illinois case wasn't even breathed about, although it must have been common property among the journalistic family very soon after it happened."

At last the Associated Press "got its ponderous self into motion and 13 days late sent out an 800-word story but without the names of the editors involved. The AP's executive editor, Alan J. Gould, admitted the AP had erred. He said:

"We are exposed to justifiable

Polio Precautions



The golden rule of personal cleanliness should be observed particularly in the usual summer polio epidemic months. Food should be kept tightly covered and safe from flies and other insects. The same applies to garbage, which, where other disposal facilities are lacking, should be buried or burned.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS