

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XIX; NO. 8

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1949

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year

'NO DEPRESSION THIS YEAR,' SAYS BABSON

Provisions New Labor Bill Are Likely To Contain; Far From Voting Stage

WASHINGTON. — The Taft-Hartley debate in the Senate hasn't yet reached the voting stage. But you can already tell some of the things the Senate is likely to do.

For example, the labor bill which the Senate finally approves and sends to the House will probably contain provisions on:

1. Non-communist oaths.
2. Financial reports.
3. "Free speech."
4. Requiring unions to bargain in good faith.

Those provisions were not in the old Wagner act and were omitted from the Truman administration's labor bill this year. But now, in the Senate, their approval in some form has almost been taken out of the field of controversy. Here's why:

They are included in four compromise amendments offered to the administration bill by a Democrat-Republican group and supported by most Truman Democrats.

In roughly similar form, they are also included in a bill offered by Senator Taft of Ohio and other Republicans.

Several other proposals are favored by both Truman Democrats and Taft Republicans.

One is the abolishment of the independent office of "general counsel" of the National Labor Relations board. This job now is held by Robert N. Denham.

In addition both bills would retain all the old Wagner act bans against employers' interference with unions.

Both bills would prohibit unions from striking, or refusing to handle goods, if the purpose is to beat out another union.

Both would make it the "public policy of the United States" for orderly settlement of disputes arising under the interpretation of the contract.

On the other hand, Senate fights were still to come on many controversial matters. Such as—

Injunctions in "national emergency" strikes, the closed shop, the bargaining rights of foremen, coercion of workers by unions, the independence of the federal mediation and conciliation service, lawsuits for breach of contract, and restrictions on union welfare funds.

On the four big matters on which an agreement seems most likely, here is a comparison of the procedure as laid down in (1) the Taft-Hartley act; (2) the bipartisan compromise amendments offered by Senators Douglas (D-Ill.), Hill (D-Ala.), Aiken (R-Vt.), Morse (R-Ore.) and others; (3) the Taft bill.

Taft-Hartley act — Prevents a union from getting any help from the NLRB unless each officer, and each officer of any parent union, files annually an affidavit swearing he is not a Communist or affiliated with the Communist party, that he doesn't

believe in the overthrow of the U. S. government by force or by any illegal or unconstitutional methods, and that he doesn't belong to or support any organization which teaches or believes in such overthrow.

Compromise amendment — contains a roughly similar requirement, which applies not only to unions but also to each company which wants to take cases before the NLRB, and to all employer associations with which the company is affiliated. However, the oaths would not be required of either a union or a company if its governing laws have the effect of banning subversive people from holding office—and if the NLRB determines that the ban is being enforced in good faith. The term "officer," with respect to both unions and companies, would be expanded to include members of all "executive policy-forming and governing bodies. Those who filed the oaths would be required to swear also they don't belong to or support any "fascist" or "totalitarian" organizations.

Taft bill — Would continue the Taft-Hartley requirement and extend it also to employers, corporation officers, and each of the employers agents having responsibility for the employer's labor relations. Those who filed the oaths would have to swear, in addition to the Taft-Hartley language, that they don't belong to or support any organization "seeking by force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the constitution of the United States."

Taft-Hartley act — Prevents a union from getting NLRB help unless it files annually with the government these things: copies of its constitution and by-laws; the names and salaries of all officers paid more than \$5,000 a year; the manner in which these officers are chosen; the amount of initiation fees and dues; a financial statement showing income, outgo, assets and liabilities; and a detailed statement of union procedures on a dozen different matters.

Compromise amendment — Would continue to require this information from unions, except for the last-named detailed statement on union procedures. In addition, the same information filed by unions would be required of any company that wants to use the NLRB machinery, and of all employer associations with which the company is affiliated.

Taft bill — Would continue the Taft-Hartley provision, without extending it to employers, but would eliminate the need of filing the detailed statement on union procedures.

Taft-Hartley act — Says an expression of opinion and argument shall not "constitute" an unfair labor practice unless such expression contains a "threat or reprisal" or "promise of benefit." (For example, if an employer tells his workers "The union is poorly led" that may be all right. But if he says, "You stay out of the union and I'll give you a raise," it's illegal.) The Taft-Hartley provision also says an expression of opinion shall not even be used as "evidence" of an unfair practice.

Compromise amendment — Contains a similar guarantee of "free speech" but eliminates the ban on using a person's statements as "evidence" against him.

LAUREL, Miss. — The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America won a collective bargaining election at the Greene Lumber Company, Laurel, with a vote of about 8 to 1 in favor of the Union.



Southern 'Cheap Labor' Said Not To Be Cause Of Industrial Movement

Claims by our Southern "Republicans" that cheap labor is essential to the industrial expansion of the South have been disproved—disproved by industrialists themselves.

A report by the National Planning Association says that plants locating in the South are interested in, first, the good markets offered by the region; second, available raw materials in the area; and third, the Labor Supply.

The report comments: "Labor came up third—which may be a surprise to many. But the Committee turned up even more surprising information: New plants were usually not after cheap labor; they wanted labor supply itself and low labor costs—quite a different thing."

The report, "New Industry Comes to the South," was made by the Association's Committee of the South. It is based on painstaking research, not emotional appeals which most Southern Congressmen use in opposition to Wage Hour Measures.

The Committee studied 83 plants built in the South since the end of World War II. They are in 13 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The study was published as most Southern Congressmen and Senators continued their attack on the expansion of wage-hour legislation.

Their arguments run like this: Southern Businessmen cannot afford to pay such "high" minimum wages as 75 cents or \$1 an hour. (That amounts to the "luxury"

rate of pay of \$30 to \$40 a week for 40 hours work.) To attract industry from the Northeast, the South must hold down its pay scales.

But the report says, "... Available Labor and satisfactory Labor attitudes were more important to these companies than the South's alleged cheap labor."

"This survey" indicates that companies operating plants in both the North and South pay roughly the same wage rates in towns of equivalent size. "... With few exceptions, those companies that are paying lower wages in their Southern than in their Northern plants told the Committee that they would not have risked their funds in a new Southern location simply because of the wage-scale differences. They considered these differences only temporary. ...

"Many ... companies knew their plants would be Unionized, and therefore were anxious to locate in a town that had a history of good Labor-Management relationships. ...

"A few apparel, shoe, and textile plants were located in certain communities in order to try to avoid Labor Unions. ... But, on the whole, the companies with Unionized plants elsewhere placed little or no stress on avoiding Unions."

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.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Equals N.A.M. As A Foe To Organized Labor

Organized business, as represented by the United States Chamber of Commerce, put itself solidly in the camp of reaction this month.

On almost an assembly-line basis, 50 policy resolutions denouncing nearly all phases of President Truman's "fair deal" program were given a rubber-stamp "okay" by 1,700 delegates at the Chamber's annual convention in Washington.

Many of the resolutions raised the scare that the Truman proposals paved the road to "socialism." One denounced all forms of "government-controlled economy."

By contrast, however, the convention called for retention of practically all of the most vicious provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

In other words, the Chamber put itself on record as wanting a free hand for business, shackles for labor and no social welfare legislation for the people.

Before the convention ground out the swarm of resolutions, the delegates also heard a lot of industrialists, Tory congressmen and other speakers, who brandished the bogey of "socialism" against the Administration's domestic program.

There was one significant exception. At a session devoted to the "dangers" of the "welfare state," the Chamber made a gesture toward hearing the "other side" by inviting Nelson H. Cruikshank, A. F. of L. director of social insurance activities, to speak.

He was pitted, however, against three other speakers who sought to tar the Truman program as "socialistic." One applied the label to government housing, another to Federal aid to education, and a third to health insurance.

Cruikshank answered in a manner unexpected to the delegates. He read from the Constitution, adopted way back in 1789, to show that nothing in the Truman program conflicted with that great charter.

No one, he said can brand the Constitution a "socialist" document, yet its preamble committed this nation to "promote the general welfare" through the power of the governments.

This aim is reinforced, he added, by Article 7, Section 8 of the Constitution which gives Congress power to "collect taxes" duties, imposts and excises" for the "general welfare of the United States."

Furthermore, Alexander Hamilton was one of the first to "defend the broad power of Congress to act for the general welfare" when he argued that the Constitution gave Congress authority to establish a national bank, Cruikshank said. Was Hamilton a "socialist?"

Is Tariff Socialistic? "Since that date there have been a host of enactments sponsored by every political party to implement the welfare activities of our government," the A. F. of L. speaker declared. "Every time Congress has passed a tariff act we have engaged in an activity of the welfare state," he said.

Cruikshank cited other examples: The establishment of a system of public school over a century ago; the Homestead act of 1862 which turned over large sections of the public domain to the plain people for settlement; the grant of huge amounts of public land to the railroads.

"Servants Of The People" "When the frontier was exhausted and the public lands were all settled, or given away, we

found ourselves still faced with the insecurity of old age and unemployment," he said. "So the government simply continued its basic policy of dedicating its resources and instrumentalities to the aid of the people through a system of social insurance."

"That is how our social security system came into effect as an activity of the welfare state. . . . At the bottom of it all is the idea that the state can be the servant of the people."—Union Reporter.

'UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW' WILL TAKE 'TO THE ROAD'

CLEVELAND. — Organized labor's big annual exposition—the "Union Industry Show," sponsored by the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department — wound up here after playing to an audience of several hundred thousand Clevelanders.

Many more saw the big, animated array of the products and services of union labor over television hookups, and great numbers heard about it in a coast-to-coast radio broadcast.

The exposition is going to be put to a unique purpose. Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn of the Label Trades Department revealed. Movies were taken of the show, and these are to be equipped with German sound track, then sent to Germany to illustrate achievements made possible by labor-management cooperation, Ornburn said.

Also, similar movies are being made available for showing during the coming months at union meetings, public gatherings and local theaters, Ornburn added.

GARNER HEADS POSTOFFICE CLERKS STATE FEDERATION, BLACKWELDER IS SEC.-TRAS.

ASHEVILLE. — A. J. Garner, III, or Asheville was elected president of the State Federation of Post Office Clerks yesterday during the final business session of the group's 19th annual convention in the George Vanderbilt hotel. Sam Blackwelder of Charlotte was named secretary-treasurer, and Jere Gay of Raleigh is legislative representative.

The auxiliary of the state federation also holding its convention, elected Mrs. A. J. Garner, III, of Asheville as its president today. Mrs. K. L. Adams was elected first vice president.

Slyde Smyre of Statesville is retiring president of the post office clerks. Mrs. Norman Harris of Shelby is retiring auxiliary president.

Approximately 300 delegates registered for the convention, the largest number of members to attend a session of this kind in the state.

The two-day meeting closed tonight with a banquet and dance for delegates and auxiliary members. Dr. Walter T. McFall, Asheville dentist, was speaker at the banquet. Others on the program include Mrs. George Williams of Raleigh, national vice president of the auxiliary; John M. Torka of Washington, D. C., assistant secretary-treasurer of the national federation, and Oscar L. Whitesell, of Greensboro, national vice president.

SEN. HUMPHREY SAYS TAFT-HARTLEY ACT HAS BREED CHAOS IN INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON—A charge that the Taft-Hartley law has bred "chaos" in industrial relations was made by Senator Humphrey (D-Minn.) today as the Senate debated the question of repealing the act. Humphrey said the act has failed to prevent national emergencies, and also has brought "direct and detailed" government intervention in collective bargaining.

Roger Babson says we will have the depression, but not this year. In one of his articles on the financial pages of the big dailies, of recent date he led off with the following:

"Back in the early thirties I heard Will Rogers say that the United States was the only nation that ever drove to the poorhouse in an automobile! We will have another major depression some day, but not this year. Moreover when it does come we will not drive to it—at 70 miles per hour—like we did in 1929. We will walk into it gradually, step by step, over the next two or three years, unless we have war. Politically, I believe that it might be good policy on the part of the Republicans to let the Democrats win the national election in 1942 and inherit an era of depression like Mr. Hoover did in 1928. The Republicans missed the chance of a lifetime in that presidential election by not letting Al Smith win—the depression."

Now, Mr. Babson is a very cautious commentator, and does not always agree with others in his profession. You can see his Republican leaning by telling the Big Boys to let the Democrats win the national election in 1952 and inherit it—the Depression. He goes on to say:

"The pouring out of billions of dollars to keep communism in its own back yard will ultimately reach a day of reckoning when our books must be balanced."

Mr. Babson is fair enough, in closing his article, to say:

"On the other side of the ledger in and spite of all the above, our present fundamental economic structure is sound. There is an abundance of money and credit facilities. Our banking institutions are stable and satisfactory. The government will spend around \$42 billion in the year beginning July 1. The farmers still have fair price supports. The chances are that taxes will not be increased this year. The administration and Congress are fully aware that business must not be hindered, but encouraged this year if they want to hold their jobs. Propped-up prosperity will prevail for the rest of this year amidst readjustments. There will be no major depression in 1949."

Labor leaders, and the workers in general, would find it enlightening to pay more attention to the financial pages of their big dailies, than to the Sport pages. They will find the stock quotations not dry reading, and the dividends declared by the Big Boys—that are "going broke"—of much interest. Many of the financial commentators see the gradual downward trend. When you read Lewis M. Schneider's Trade Winds in The Observer, same issue, you will find a trend running thusly:

"The crumbling process will not continue every day. There will always be technical rallies. But the trend arrow points down."

"Lower prices increase dividend yields. But will present dividend rates be maintained? The action of 'blue chip' shares show doubt on the part of wealthy investors."

"Brokers admit that most informed investors currently prefer a liquid position. But nobody expects a 1929-32 depression to repeat. There's no need to fuss and wonder why prices are going down. Disturbing economic factors warrant the slump—as already reported here."

"The postwar deflation is definitely under way. Durable goods sales—autos, steel, farm equipment, etc.—have joined the decline started late last year in radios, textiles, shoes, tires, etc." And in the meantime Wall Street and its stock markets see stock staking new low tumbles, some going back to a pre-war basis, but coming back again, to a degree, all of which leads to a feeling of uncertainty and uneasiness—but, they say, we are going to pull through all right. So we will just sit still in the boat, and try to ride the storm out.

Police Precautions



A good health rule for parents to impress upon children in infantile paralysis epidemic areas is to avoid crowds and places where close contact with other persons is likely.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL