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A. F. L. POLITICAL CONFERENCE GETS SET FOR MAMMOTH DRIVE IN COMING 1950 ELECTIONS

House Kills Brannan Farm Program; Extends Present Price Support Plan

Washington—In a revolt against the Administration, the House killed a proposal for a 2-year trial run of the Brannan farm program and voted to continue the present agricultural price support system for another year.

By a teller vote of 222 to 152, the production payment method of supporting farm income was turned down. Then the House went on to approve continuation of the present support system in lieu of a modified version due to become effective on January 1, 1950.

Defeat for the Administration at the hands of a coalition which included many Democratic stalwarts came despite the pleas of Speaker Sam Rayburn who appealed for support for a trial of the proposal of Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan to make up the difference between market prices and support levels by direct payments to farmers.

In the course of a short speech, which concluded two days of debate, Mr. Rayburn also predicted that the cost of the present price support system "is going to be such that one day it is going to injure farm legislation." He said Democratic Representatives of urban districts had voted unanimously over the years for "our farm program," receiving nothing in return.

"But some of these days, unless we pay a great deal more attention to the consumers of this country, they may rise up and make it hard for us to continue this program," he asserted.

The speaker was referring to the contention of Brannan Plan supporters that consumers would benefit along with farmers under its terms, since market prices would be allowed to drop to normal levels instead of being bolstered by loans and purchases.

Besides extending the present price support system through 1950, the bill as passed would repeal flexible price-support provision of existing law that are due to become effective next January 1. These provisions of the 1948 act, sponsored by Senator George D. Aiken, Republican, of Vermont, received delayed status as the result of a session-end compromise between the House and Senate last year.

Portions of the law already in effect, and to be continued under terms of the bill passed today, require rigid support of major crops at 90 per cent of parity. Parity is a price designed to provide a fair balance between what the farmer receives for his products and what he must pay for his needs.

The present parity formula is calculated to give the farmer a sales return equal in purchasing power to the amount the same commodities brought in the 1909-14 period.

The administration bill, besides authorizing a trial run of production payments on potatoes, eggs and shorn wool, contained a new parity formula proposed by Secretary Brannan as part of his overall program. The base, instead of the 1909-1914 period, was to be a moving one—the first 10 years of the most recent 12-year period. The bill called for support of major commodities at 100 per cent of the new parity. On the whole, 90 per cent of existing parity is slightly lower than 100 per cent of the proposed new parity.

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from the July 19th radio program, "As We See It," a new series presented by the American Federation of Labor over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company each Tuesday evening from 10:30-10:45 EDT. The views of Joseph D. Keenan on politics and labor were expressed in an interview with James G. Crowley, radio commentator.

By JOSEPH D. KEENAN, Director, Labor's League for Political Education

Labor's League for Political Education is an organization set up and dedicated, first, to see to it that the people of the United States get the information and the important issues of the day, as far as political candidates are concerned, so that when they make their selection at the polls they will vote for people who believe in the American way of life.

Every American citizen can vote and that's another aim of the American Federation of Labor and Labor's League—that all of the bars that now prevent the American citizen from voting be lifted.

Now I believe that there is a false general impression that the only concern that labor has is in the Taft-Hartley Act. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act is our job, but I think labor has a greater responsibility.

In supporting candidates, the league will weigh how they voted on housing, minimum wage proposals, social security, aid to education, development of our natural resources and, of course, the Taft-Hartley Act. Labor will back those men who have supported the general welfare program.

I believe that the charge that a great welfare program would lead to state control is the easiest answer for those that oppose it because, when you stand up and argue these things out, you will find that labor in particular in this country is against socialism as well as totalitarianism in any form. And when our way of life is in danger, the American Federation of Labor will be one organization that will be in there fighting to the bitter end. We believe in the free enterprise system, we believe in the two-party system also.

There is a great danger in this country. There is a group that would like to lull us to sleep on this Communist issue, but there is a greater danger of totalitarianism in America from the right rather than from the left. And as long as they can lull us to sleep on this left issue they'll

LUCKMAN TELLS BUSINESS TO CUT PRICES, GET ON BALL
Los Angeles. — Decrying the economic "defeatism" which he said now pervaded the nation "from boardroom to barroom," Charles Luckman, president of Lever Bros. Co., urged that American business revitalize its efforts so the country would not worry itself into illness and amid untold possibilities of expansion and prosperity.

Business, he said, must shake off the buyers' market psychology, and refurbish its advertising, selling and productive processes to meet a postwar demand which has not been fulfilled, and "sell" the private enterprise system by performance rather than words.

make hay on the right issue. There's the great danger that the electorate will be lulled to sleep by a group of fast talkers who will not state the facts — they color them.

I believe that the greatest aim of Labor's League for Political Education is to inform the electorate as to what various bills and laws mean to everyone. If they get that information, again I'll say, they'll vote right. I don't think we have any right as labor unions or as a labor organization to dictate to anyone. We certainly have a right to develop a program and ask Congress to support it.

The American people have not been properly educated on the problems of the day. I think you read the paper day after day that there is a "colored" story on every issue. I think that one of the greatest monstrosities in this country today is the "distorted" talk on the health program.

I think one of the most important problems is to try and reduce the cost of living. The second most important is housing. Follow along with minimum wage — increasing the rate from 40 cents to 75 cents. Then social security. I think that for the good of the country we must set up a social security system that will give those people that are unfortunate enough to depend upon it, enough money to live in decency.

In order to maintain a high national income we must keep the farmer prosperous so that he can buy the manufactured goods from the factories of the large cities. If the farmer is out of balance, if his income is down, then it's natural for that situation to affect the manufacturer and the retailer and go right on down the line. The interest of the farmer, the worker and the businessman is mutual.

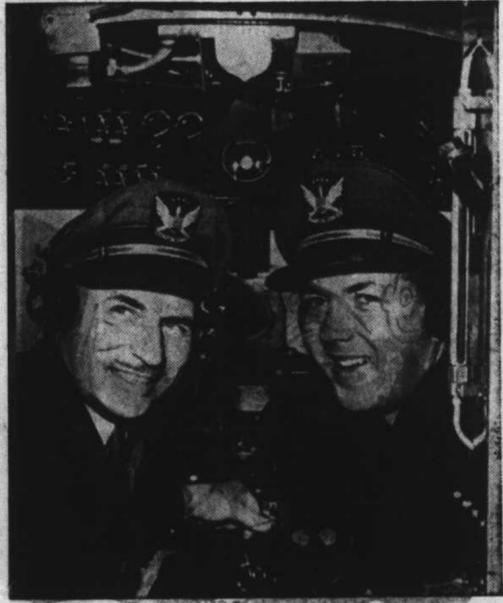
Labor is opposed to Senator Taft because he has gone a long, long way in his efforts to destroy the influence of the trade unions of this country. I want to point out that when you destroy the trade unions you are destroying an influence that is dedicated to carrying out the program that I mentioned some time ago. So it's natural that labor is concerned about Senator Taft. He has a record, and unbroken record, of opposing labor at every turn. I don't believe he has ever made a study as to just what labor has done, has been responsible for in this country. I think we can stand on our record. And I think that when the people of Ohio go into Taft's record, they will vote and vote right.

Asserting that too many business men had remained in the grip of inertia and timidity, he called for "facing up immediately to inventory losses," lowering prices wherever possible and developing new products, processes and services.

GOMPERS STAMP PROPOSED

Washington. — Representative Augustine B. Kelley, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill authorizing the Post Office Department to issue a special 3-cent postage stamp commemorating the 100th birthday of the late Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor.

'Flyingest' Pilot Retires; Son To Carry On At Trade



United Air Lines Photo

Captain E. Hamilton Lee (left), a member of the AFL's Airline Pilots Association with 4,400,000 miles of flying to his credit, at the controls of a United Air Lines plane prior to his retirement after 36 years of service. With him is his son, Captain Robert E. Lee, who will carry on the family tradition.

By DAN SMYTH, Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago. — The oldest member (in point of service) one of the youngest crafts of the American Federation of Labor was congratulated by President Truman and Postmaster General Donaldson upon retirement after 36 years at his trade.

He is Capt. E. Hamilton Lee, a member of the AFL's Airline Pilots Association who has flown 4,400,000 miles during his career; the equivalent of 175 trips around the world at the equator. He was flying for United Air Lines when he retired this summer.

In congratulating the "flyingest man in the world," the President and the postmaster general paid tribute to the pioneer pilots who have carried the U. S. mail through every kind of weather in the tradition of the pony express riders. "Nothing stops the United States mail."

Lee was born April 18, 1892, in Paris, Ill. As a boy in Minneapolis he used to bicycle out to the airfield where A. T. Heine, a pioneer pilot, was flying a dilapidated pusher biplane. One day Heine told young Lee, "Stick around and I'll give you a ride."

Lee enjoyed his first flight, sitting out in the open with his legs hanging free and his arms wrapped around the struts. It was only a short time later that Lee himself was learning to handle a plane.

In World War I he joined up as an air "veteran" with more than 200 hours of flying already to his credit. He taught flying at army air fields in Texas and was transferred in 1917 to Selfridge Field, Mich., where he taught acrobatic flying to army air corps cadets.

every segment of the original transcontinental air route.

In 1927, he switched to Boeing Air Transport, when it took over the San Francisco-Chicago portion of the transcontinental route. Boeing was a predecessor company of United. In his stride, Captain Lee took the new technological advances of airplane manufacture as he worked through single-engine Boeing 40s, trimotor Boeing 80s, twin-engine Boeing 247s and twin-engine Douglas DC-3s.

In his 30 years on air mail flying he saw aviation develop from 90-mph, open-cockpit planes to 5 mile a minute, 4-engine airliners.

"We didn't have much besides our wits to help us to do the job in the early days," said Lee. "A magnetic compass, an altimeter and a crude sort of speed indicator made up our flight instruments. Intermediate landings were more the rule than the exception."

He will devote his time now to being a landlord in Glendale, Calif., where he owns an apartment building and a string of bungalows. His son, Robert E. Lee, who is a captain on the Chicago-New York route for United, will carry on the family name. He joined United in 1942.

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.

URGES \$2 CONTRIBUTION FROM AFL MEMBERS FOR CAMPAIGNS

Washington. — Labor's 1950 election campaign strategy was mapped out here at a conference of some 300 national and state AFL leaders called by Labor's League for Political Education. Pointing for the defeat of anti-labor reactionaries in both Senate and House, the conference voted to recommend to the administrative committee of the LLPE a proposal to solicit from AFL members and their friends a \$2 contribution for political work at the national, state and local precinct level.

Joseph D. Keenan, LLPE director, said the league would concentrate its activities in states where it has "better than an even chance to win."

Specifically, Mr. Keenan mentioned the states of Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Colorado where the LLPE will concentrate its resources to defeat Senators Robert A. Taft, Homer E. Capehart, Forrest C. Donnell and Eugene Millikin.

The LLPE chief said, however, that labor would "have a pretty tough fight" to insure the reelection of Senators Wayne Morse, of Oregon; Carl Hayden, of Arizona; Lister Hill, of Alabama; Olin D. Johnston, of South Carolina; Brien McMahon, of Connecticut; Warren G. Mangunson, of Washington; Francis J. Meyers, of Pennsylvania; Claude Pepper, of Florida, and Elbert D. Thomas, of Utah.

The fund raising proposal, submitted to the conference by a committee headed by Cornelius J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor urged the collection of \$2 from each of the AFL's 8,000,000 members in a voluntary basis. The funds would be collected by the national LLPE which would, in general retain half of the amount and return the other half to state and local branches. It was stressed, however, that in many cases the funds plowed back into state and local contests would exceed half or more of the total collected in these areas. The committee report, adopted by the conference, urged that the funds be used "in sections where it is most needed."

Expressing hope that the LLPE branches would have a political chairman in each Congressional district, Mr. Keenan said he also hoped that precinct captains would be named in some 50,000 of the 80,000 election precincts.

Comments of league officials who spoke at the conference served to emphasize labor's determination to wage a vigorous drive for the election of a Congress which would be receptive to labor's program.

William Green, AFL president, spoke of what he said was labor's success in the 1948 campaign, but he blamed the failure of labor to have its program enacted by the present Congress on "reactionaries." He also blamed "reactionaries" for the growth of communism. It was to teach the "reactionaries" a lesson that the Labor League for Political Education would have to devote itself next year, he added.

George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, suggested that the Senate vote on the Taft omnibus labor bill be the political "yardstick" for labor in 1950.

Mr. Keenan told reporters that organized labor would seek to make a solid front with other groups in order to join the congressional battle next year for common objectives.

High up on the labor list for attainment, he said, will be repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and re-enactment of a modified Wagner Act.

Then would come social security legislation and minimum wage extension, he added. Labor would also press for health insurance, civil rights legislation and federal aid to education.

William C. Hushing, heading the

AFL Legislative Council, reported on the campaign to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act. He explained to the representatives of a large number of national unions and state and city council labor bodies that the AFL Executive Council was of the opinion that no acceptable labor bill could be passed at this session of Congress.

An acceptable labor bill would have to omit any reference to injunctions, said Mr. Hushing. He held out that possibility that even though the same Congress would be in session in January the mood of the members "may be different."

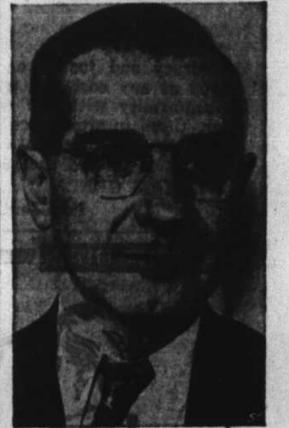
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat, of Minnesota, touched on this point, too, in a brief address, saying that as the 1940 elections drew near some members might be inclined to change their views on proposed labor legislation.

AFL AUTO WORKERS UNION REPORTS GAINS IN ILLINOIS

Decatur, Ill.—The recently announced organizational drive in the 8th Region of the AFL's United Automobile Workers of America resulted in the winning of another plant, according to word received from Director Earl Heaton.

Employees at the Buhner Co. in Danville, Ill., voted for the UAW-AFL as their official bargaining agent. The new local union, which is being assisted by 8th Regional District Representative William Walker, is planning on beginning contract negotiations with the company in the near future. This is the third plant organized in Region 8 in recent weeks.

Head Of CROP Drive For Needy



The job of organizing this year's nation-wide interchurch drive for farm commodities to aid the needy overseas is under the direction of John D. Metzler, above, national chairman of the Christian Rural Overseas program (CROP). Already 20 states are organized individually for the expanded harvest season campaign, 11 others are completing their plans, and organizational arrangements are proceeding in the remaining 17. Last year, farmers in 26 states contributed 75,668,581 pounds of farm commodities, representing 2,392 railroad carloads of gifts in kind, with a value of \$6,596,674.

CROP is sponsored by Catholic Rural Life, represented on the governing cabinet by Ray F. Murray; Church World Service (22 Protestant denominations); Mr. Metzler; and Lutheran World Relief, Clifford E. Dublin. National headquarters are in Chicago.