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LLPE TO ASK TWO DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE COMING 1950 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Labor Dept. Gets Employment Service As Senate Votes Reorganization Plan

Washington—The United States Employment Service, kicked around like a football for years, has finally been booted back to the Labor Department.

This was accomplished when the Senate upheld President Truman's proposal to transfer the agency, together with the Unemployment Insurance Service, from the Federal Security Agency to the Labor Department.

The move, long supported by the American Federation of Labor, came as a victory for the Administration after its earlier defeat in efforts to create a new Department of Public Welfare. The all-too familiar coalition of reactionary Republicans and Southern Democrats killed this proposed reorganization plan by a vote of 60 to 32.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, hailing the transfer of the new functions to his department, declared the action was "a great step forward in bringing about greater efficiency in government and in strengthening the nation's economy." He said that steps would be taken soon to return to the department other labor functions in a program to rebuild the agency "to its greatest usefulness."

The Administration triumph scored on a 57-32 vote, meant that six of the seven reorganization proposals submitted by President Truman in line with recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, headed by former President Herbert Hoover, would go into effect. These included:

Transfer of the Bureau of Public Roads to the Department of Commerce.

Reorganization of the Post Office Department, with greater authority vested in the Postmaster General and greater assistance provided for him.

Transfer of the National Security Council and the National Security Resources Board to the Executive Office of the President.

Make the chairman of the Civil Service Commission the executive officer of the commission.

Make the chairman of the Maritime Commission the chief executive and administrative officer of the commission.

The measure to put the Bureau of Employment Security and affiliated services, as well as the Federal Advisory Council and functions of the Veterans Placement Service Board, into the Labor Department had the strong support of Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota. Its chief opponent was Senator Irving Ives of New York.

RETAIL CLERKS WINNING NUMBER OF ELECTIONS

Lafayette, Ind.—Evidence that the Retail Clerks International Association, AFL, is aggressively pursuing its announced organizing drive was pointed out by James A. Suffridge, secretary-treasurer. He cited the fact that during July the International Association was on the ballot in 37 board-supervised elections. Of the 37, 32 were won, four were lost and one ended in a tie.

Since May 1, when the organizing campaign began, the association has been on the ballot in 80 elections, 46 of them for union recognition and the remainder seeking union shop authorization. A total of 75 per cent of the 80 ended in victories for the AFL Retail Clerks.

PITTSBURGH PLANS LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Pittsburgh—Plans for a huge Labor Day parade in protest against the failure of Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act were announced here by the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union and the Joint Council, No. 40, of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Committees in charge of the demonstration predicted the parade would be the greatest show of worker strength in the history of the Tri-State area.

All of the 250,000 local union members of the AFL in the Pittsburgh area will be called upon to participate.

This Labor Day parade will be the first to be held in Pittsburgh since prewar days.

In deciding on the demonstration, its sponsors declared a firm conviction that there can be no hope of future progress nor the enjoyment of the free way of American life for the wage earners of our country while Taft-Hartleyism in any of its devious forms remains on the statute books.

The full impact of these reactionary laws have not yet been felt by labor generally but as time goes on their various provisions can stifle the growth of organized labor, weaken the trade union movement in the land and make it increasingly difficult for American men and women to keep their heads above water.

At the same time, President James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, said:

"The answer to labor's sharp defeat on T-H repeal lies in more and intensified political action between the nation's working men and women and their union organization."

"The defeat of organized labor by the 81st Congress in its effort to repeal the T-H law will weld organized labor into a smooth running political organization by 1950. In Pennsylvania, 700,000 members of the American Federation of Labor will answer this challenge at the polls. A successful 1949 campaign is vital to prepare labor for the 1950 test."

JOBS FOR WOMEN HUNTED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Washington—The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department said it was making a field study in ten cities to determine the amount of parttime employment available for women.

Its agents have visited Richmond, Va., and are now in San Francisco. The employment situation also will be studied in Syracuse, N. Y., New York, Worcester, Mass., Dallas, Tex., Milwaukee, Wis., Columbus, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa and Denver.

The information will be made available to vocational counselors college placement agencies and various women's organizations.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

Two Irishmen were using dynamite in a stone quarry when one was killed by an unexpected explosion. His friend was given the job of conveying the news to the widow.

"Mrs. Flanagan," he began. "Is this not the day the man will be calling for your husband's life insurance?"

"Sure, it is that," replied Mrs. Flanagan.

"Then, 'tis yourself that can be snapping your fingers at him," the friend responded cheerfully.

WRONG TARGET



12 French Trade Unionists Here To Study U.S. Methods

Washington. — Twelve French trade unionists are among the group of 17 representatives of France's heavy electrical equipment industry which arrived in New York recently. The group is the first from France to come to the United States under the Economics Co-operation Administration's industrial technical assistance project to study production methods here.

The French delegation was met by ECA officials and representatives of the French Embassy, after which it proceeded to Philadelphia. A three-week seminar will be conducted for the men there, including lectures, conferences, industrial motion pictures, etc. This program will be supplemented by plant visits. Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden, ECA labor advisers, will address the group during the seminar.

Labor relations is high on the list of interests expressed by the men during advance planning for the trip. Opportunity will be afforded for them to meet with union officials and rank and file during their stay. They will study trade union organization and methods, collective bargaining and contract negotiations, grievance procedures, etc. In addition they will observe apprentice training methods, safety programs, welfare and working conditions in the plants.

Four of the union men are members of Force Ouvriere, the most recently formed free trade union in France. They are: Henri Carillon, Maurice Chagnet, Marcel Collot and Jean France.

The Confederation Generale des Cadres is also represented by four men. They are: Etienne Bernard, Roger Damisch, Oscar de la Chancellerie and Roland Koch.

The remaining four labor men are members of the Confederation Francaise des Travailleurs Shre-tiens. They are: Pierre Bouda, Andre Guldemann, Henri Larrieu and Robert Pernod.

Leader of the team will be Henri Noel of the Association of Heavy Electrical Industries in France. Andre Pons, who will represent the French Productivity Committee, will act as secretary.

Other members of the team are Marcel Depelly, Richard de la Harp and Eugene Maury.

The cost of the project will be borne jointly by ECA and the French government.

WOLL SENDS \$1,000 FOR AID TO ECUADOR

New York City. — Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee, sent a check for \$1,000 for the relief of victims of the disastrous earthquake in Ecuador.

"In token of our solidarity with people and workers of Ecuador in their hour of tragedy and suffering," Mr. Woll airmailed the contribution to Gonzalo Maldonado Jarrin, president of the Confederation of Labor of Ecuador for the help of those designated by the confederation.

VETS WARNED AGAINST FAKE REFUND BLANKS

Washington. — Veterans were warned that swindlers were peddling bogus application blanks to veterans for filing claims for refunds on National Service Life Insurance.

The Veterans Administration said that the blanks which are reported being sold for 50 cents to \$1 each, would not be accepted when a \$2,800,000,000 dividend was divided among 16,000,000 World War II veterans beginning next January.

Officials said that the peddlers persuaded veterans to buy the false blanks by telling them they would receive their refund checks first if they got their applications in early. There is no validity to the assertion, the officials said.

The applications will be processed in a group when they are all received.

The agency said that its genuine application forms would be available August 29 at post offices, VA offices and at veterans' organizations. They will be free.

HOOVER, 75, SAYS U. S. IS NEAR COLLECTIVISM

Palo Alto, Calif.—Age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite sameness of Hooverism.

On his 75th birthday, the former President, now regarded by Wall Street as an elder statesman, delivered a speech in which he said America is now "on the last mile" toward collectivism.

No, it's not news; it's just Hoover again.

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from interviews by Philip Pearl, director of publicity for the AFL, with AFL President William Green and Joseph D. Keenan, director, Labor's League for Political Education, on the AFL's radio program, "As We See It," broadcast over the American Broadcasting System:

By WILLIAM GREEN, President, American Federation of Labor

Unemployment is always serious to the individuals who lose their jobs and to their families. But from a national basis, it has not reached dangerous proportions, nor is it likely to do so. The unemployment totals have now gone over the 4 million mark, the highest figure since pre-war days. But there are two other very important considerations to take into account.

First, unemployment has become acute only in a very few industries and in very few localities. It is spotty rather than general. Secondly, the number of people employed in America is still near the sixty million level, which is far above the pre-war times. Finally, the latest reports we get show that unemployment has leveled off, and is likely to decline in the coming months.

There is a great deal of concrete evidence piling up to justify optimism. For instance, building construction throughout the nation is enjoying its greatest boom in history and that makes business for many different kinds of factories. Also, Congress has just approved another large appropriation for the European Recovery Program, and that means a flood of new orders for export. Aside from this, retail stores which have allowed their inventories to shrink to a low level are beginning to buy for the Fall and Christmas seasons in large volume and as a result, manufacturing trades are accumulating substantial backlogs of orders for production.

Despite these favorable signs, it is never safe to gamble with the well-being and security of our fellow-citizens. Action is necessary to reduce unemployment promptly where it exists and to guard against any future emergency. The Executive Council adopted a three-point program of action along these lines.

First, we voted full support and endorsement to President Truman's directive to government agencies to concentrate and pinpoint federal purchases in communities suffering from factory closings and unemployment.

Second, we urged Congress to authorize the preparation of a shelf of necessary public works projects which could be put into operation promptly wherever unemployment flares up.

Finally, we called upon Congress to approve pending legislation permitting the government to make low-interest loans to co-operatives and other non-profit groups for the construction of moderate-rental apartment units for millions of workers and other citizens in the middle-income groups, who need new housing badly but can't afford high rents.

To put it bluntly, I feel that a great deal of the recent "recession" talk was a deliberate propaganda campaign undertaken by big business for the purpose of discouraging further wage increases. But organized labor has not been fooled!

Our unions are continuing to seek moderate wage increases

wherever they are justified. And I want to emphasize right here that it is very necessary and important for our national economy to continue to lift our standard of living. When you get right down to basic facts, the only dependable, cash market for the products of American factories and farms is the purchasing power of the working population of our country. Full employment at high wages means prosperity for all. But when employment and wages shrink, purchasing power also dries up and our whole economy is endangered.

Soviet Russia is just waiting for that to happen as a signal to move. For the sake of world peace and the preservation of human freedom, we must never allow that to come about. The American Federation of Labor is determined to do everything in its power to prevent a depression and all the calamity it would bring with it.

In our struggle it is tragic that we are handicapped by the Taft-Hartley Act, which makes it impossible for trade unions to function effectively. Today free trade unions are the most effective defense the world has against the spread of Communism, far more effective, in my opinion, than the atomic bomb. But big business was so shortsighted as to weaken that defense by prevailing upon Congress to adopt the Taft-Hartley Act. Thus far we have failed to bring about repeal of that law. But we are going to redouble our efforts in next year's political campaign to elect a Congress which will repeal the Taft-Hartley Act. That will be organized labor's Number One objective in the coming year.

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

The Taft-Hartley Act prohibits the expenditure of funds from union treasuries in connection with national election campaigns, so the American Federation of Labor was compelled to form a separate organization, Labor's League for Political Education, in order to protect the fundamental democratic right of its members to participate effectively in the election of the people who run our government.

We have a much broader purpose than the repeal of that legislation. We want to elect representatives of the people who will faithfully carry out the will of the people, instead of serving as tools for big-money interests.

I think the record of the last five consecutive presidential elections shows that the voters of America want a government with a heart, a government with a desire to improve their welfare, a government which is ready and willing to do something to better the American way of life.

However, the record of the past few years also shows that a coalition of reactionaries from both political parties, reactionaries who believe in a do-nothing policy, who consider every human welfare program as a step toward statism, have been able to block enactment of our liberal program. It is our purpose to prove to the American people that the members of Congress who oppose improvement in the social system, who oppose an effective housing program, who oppose a decent minimum wage and who are against every other liberal reform, are the very same crowd that voted to handcuff labor with the Taft-Hartley Act.

Toronto, Canada. — Labor's League for Political Education, the AFL's political arm, adopted a program designed to raise funds to help defeat anti-labor candidates and to elect labor's friends in the 1950 general elections.

This was the highlight of the final sessions of the regular mid-summer meeting of the AFL's Executive Council which completed work on its report to be submitted to the AFL convention in St. Paul, Minn., on October 3.

The administrative committee of LLPE approved plans for soliciting \$2 voluntary contributions from AFL members and persons sympathetic to organized labor to finance its election campaign activities.

Joseph D. Keenan, LLPE director, said the league hoped to raise at least \$1,000,000 through the voluntary contribution drive.

The action of the committee approved recommendations made by a political conference held in Washington this summer at which representatives from state and city affiliates of the American Federation of Labor considered general strategy to be followed by LLPE.

In other action, the council decided to send a delegate to London for the meeting, on November 23, of the constitutional assembly of the new international federation of free trade unions. The delegation, composed of five delegates and as many alternates, was not named.

It is expected that democratic, free trade union centers from 50 nations will send representatives to the conference to complete the organization of the new labor federation to take the place of the near-defunct, Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

Commenting on the meeting, AFL President William Green told a press conference that formation of the new free labor group will be the "most effective barrier against further Soviet aggression." He said that free trade unions, organized in a worldwide unit, could foil the Russian strategy of extending its sway over smaller nations by taking over the labor movement within those countries.

Mr. Green said that the new organization would be open to all national union centers which could demonstrate that they were free of government domination or interference.

In another development, the Executive Council voted to purchase time on a national radio network to present an AFL news program. The program will be started next year and will give AFL members and the general public the opportunity to hear labor's views on news events and current issues presented by well-known commentators. The program will be heard five nights a week. The AFL will sponsor the program for three nights weekly, with the remaining two periods offered by Labor's League for Political Education.

Turning to the political front, Mr. Green told newsmen that LLPE, in the 1950 election race for Senate seats, would be shooting mainly for Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, who helped sire the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law. Other chief targets would be Senators Donnell of Missouri, Capeheart of Indiana and Milliken of Colorado.

Mr. Green announced that the Executive Council was "reasonably satisfied" with the efforts made by the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress to clean the Communists out of that organization. The council heard a report on this situation presented by the anti-Communist element within the TLC.