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GREEN PLEDGES FIGHT TO WHIP TAFT IN 1950

Asst. Sec. Kaiser To Guide MLA Office

BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN
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AFL News Service

Washington, D. C.—A 36-year-old young man has been formally entrusted with the job of aiding the free labor movement in America and overseas in its battle against totalitarianism.

Nominated by President Truman and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, this young man, Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser, has undertaken direction of the Department of Labor's manifold activities in the field of international relations.

He was sworn in by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black in the office of Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin in the presence of distinguished representatives of Congress, Cabinet departments and ranking trade union leaders, including John P. Frey, George P. Delaney, James Brownlow, Nelson Cruikshank, Serafina Romualdi and others.

Alongside the new Assistant Secretary of Labor was his father, 76 years old, a man who fled Czarist oppression half a century ago. About his father, Mr. Kaiser said after the oath-taking ceremony to the assembly in Secretary Tobin's office:

"He came to this country fleeing social and economic and religious persecution. He came here seeking an opportunity to live in a free society — where men could earn their bread by honest toil, and worship God in accordance with the dictates of their consciences; where children of immigrants were provided opportunities commensurate with their abilities.

"My father found these things here in America. He found a life-giving spirit of freedom, for to him the basic concept of life has been the inviolability of the individual personality. He toiled hard in this vineyard and inculcated in his 35 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a sense of deep devotion to a country, where his aspirations have become a reality."

The Labor Department's Office of International Affairs, to which the new Assistant Secretary is assigned, works closely with American trade union leaders. Its Trade Union Advisory Committee which meets regularly with Secretary Tobin and Assistant Secretary Kaiser includes David Dubinsky, ILGWU president; Thomas L. Harkins, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Locomotive Engineers; A. E. Lyon, George Meany, Matthew Woll and George Delaney.

The Office of International Affairs concerns itself with many matters of vital importance to the American labor movement; for example, trying to raise labor standards in other countries so that manufacturers or other products entering this country shall be done by workers paid decent wages, keeping in touch with American union leaders on matters of mutual concern in the foreign field, representing the American government in the International Labor Organization and many others.

By and large, this office is where American labor has a chance to influence the course of American foreign policy and is a means of fighting the inroads of communism in the labor movements of other countries.

Union Observing 'Unfair' Employer Held In Violation

Washington. — Union observers who followed vehicles belonging to an "unfair" employer were ruled to have violated the Taft-Hartley law by a trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board.

The board itself, in an earlier ruling, had held it was illegal for pickets to follow a truck from the site of a primary dispute to the premises of another employer for the purpose of picketing it there.

In the case announced, the unions made no attempt to picket the trucks and their cars bore no signs or banners. However, the trial examiner, Hamilton Gardner, held that the stationing of cars by the unions at the Santa Ana Lumber Co., Santa Ana, Calif., yards was "in effect a picket line even though not in the regular sense."

Mr. Gardner found the following AFL labor organizations guilty of violating the secondary boycott section of the Taft-Hartley law:

Local 407, Carpenters Union; Building and Construction Trades Council of Orange County, Cal.; Local 692, Teamsters Union and Orange County District Council of Carpenters.

The target of the unions was the Santa Ana Lumber Company. The opinion filed said that union observers in automobiles had followed Santa Ana trucks on some 100 to 200 occasions.

According to Mr. Gardner "the actual following of company trucks to customers' premises was calculated to be an attempt to demonstrate that something was wrong in the labor relations obtaining at Santa Ana. . . ."

Unless it is contested before the NLRB within twenty days the trial examiner's recommendations will take effect as a board order.

WILLIAM GREEN SPONSORS AMERICAN INDIAN FUND

New York. — William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has become a co-sponsor of the American Indian Fund, 48 East 86th Street, New York City, Oliver La Farge, fund chairman, announced.

Mr. Green joins a distinguished group of public leaders helping the fund in its current drive to raise 450,000 American Indian citizens to full participation in American life.

The fund, through its parent organization, the Association on American Indian Affairs, strongly endorsed the National Fair Employment Practices bill, H.R. 4453, in testimony recently before the House Committee on Education and Labor in Washington.

"Many Indian reservations today are centers of misery and starvation, the end result of centuries of economic discrimination," Association Counsel Felix S. Cohan told the committee. "Indians are the most rapidly increasing racial group in the United States. Economic discrimination practiced against them today in the United States and Alaska is probably more serious than that practiced against any other minority groups."

NEW ENGLAND TURNS OUT 30% OF NATION'S SHOES

Boston.—The New England Shoe and Leather Association reported that during 1948 the "shoe states"—Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire—turned out 140,422,000 pairs of shoes. This, said the association, was better than 30 per cent of all the shoes made in America.

'GOP-Byrds of a Feather....'



AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from interviews by AFL Publicity Director Philip Pearl with Representative Andrew J. Biemiller of Wisconsin and Nelson H. Cruikshank, Director of Social Insurance Activities for the AFL, on the question of the welfare state. The interviews were broadcast on the AFL's "As We See It" radio program, heard each Tuesday evening at 10:30 p. m., EDT, over the American Broadcasting Company network.

Introduction: We propose to get down to cases on what is rapidly becoming the basic political issue of our country and our times; namely, the issue of the welfare state.

On the one hand, we have the Taft-Hoover school of thought which warns the American people that "we are on the last mile on the back road to collectivism." On the other hand we have the Truman-Roosevelt-Labor school of thought which believes that the American people are entitled to a much broader measure of social and economic security than they now enjoy. The battle between these two conflicting philosophies promises to wax hotter and even more bitter in the 1950 congressional campaigns.

Question: Congressman Biemiller, do you see anything new, revolutionary, or dangerous in this so-called welfare state?

Biemiller: I do not see anything dangerous or revolutionary in it unless you think our entire American form of government is revolutionary and dangerous. From the very beginning of our country we have believed in the welfare state. The Founding Fathers wrote into the Preamble of the Constitution a definite statement that the government was founded to promote the general welfare of the people.

Question: Mr. Cruikshank, do you subscribe to the argument that the Preamble to the Constitution does not have any real legal status, that it is not legally binding?

Cruikshank: No, not at all. That argument is frequently brought up, and I think it has been answered best by former Justice Cordozo of the United States Supreme Court in a decision given on a social security case. The justice, who was not a New Dealer but an appointee of President Hoover, said back in 1937:

"Congress may spend money in aid of the general welfare. . . . The object behind this statute (the Social Security Act) is to save men and women from the rigors of the poorhouse, as well as from the haunting fear that such a lot awaits them when the journey's end is near. Only a power that is national can serve the interests of all. That issue is a closed one. It was fought out long ago."

Biemiller: I do not think there is any question but that it was fought out long ago. Take, for example, the statement of Thomas Jefferson, who, way back in 1806, proposed that public lands be set aside and dedicated to public education. This was definitely a case (Continued On Page 4)

ANTI-RED BERLIN UNION FACES FINANCIAL RUIN

Berlin—The anticommunist independent trade unions of Berlin (UGO) are dangerously near financial collapse, it was reported here. More than 25 percent of the members did not pay their dues last month because of unemployment.

A western allied source warned that UGO, which he described as "one of the most important of anti-communist organizations," stood to lose much of its effectiveness if it did not get immediate help from western governments or labor organizations. UGO, formed by anti-communist German trade unionists in the western sectors of Berlin, was described as one of western democracy's greatest assets during the past few years in Berlin.

AFL AUTO WORKERS LOCAL WINS 15-CENT WAGE HIKE

Chicago.—Just six weeks after organizing the plant, Local 286 of the AFL's United Automobile Workers of America reported the signing of a contract with the National Video Corporation.

Heading the long list of gains is a straight 15-cents-an-hour wage increase for all employees. Other provisions of the initial pact include paid holidays, liberal paid vacations, a health and accident insurance plan, and an unusually fine grievance procedure. The contract also includes many other features typical of the superior agreements negotiated by this amalgamated union which boasts of more than 30 plants in the Windy City area.

PREDICTS BIG AFL DRIVE WILL DECISIVELY BEAT TAFT IN 1950 VOTE

Columbus, Ohio.—AFL President William Green declared that the American Federation of Labor will pull no punches in its campaign next year for the defeat of its arch-enemy, Senator Robert A. Taft.

In a fighting speech delivered before cheering delegates attending the 64th annual convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, the AFL leader went on to predict a "decisive" defeat for Taft at the hands of an aroused labor movement.

Chicago Labor Hits Cuts In Relief Aid

BY DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago, Aug. 29.—The labor movement in Chicago and Illinois is protesting vigorously against a 10 per cent cut in relief payments and a 5 per cent cut in aid to dependent children, ordered by the Illinois Public Air Commission, effective September 1.

The order to cut, paradoxically, results from rising unemployment and increased demands for relief. The commission's idea was to spread available funds among a larger number of people. The consequences, according to local relief administrators, will be a serious reduction in diet for 92,000 relief clients, 89,804 dependent children and an unknown number of mothers of dependent children.

In Illinois, relief budgets are fixed biennially by the legislature. Appropriations are made on recommendations of a budgetary commission, based on estimates of need prepared several months before the appropriation is finally voted.

In former years, the money appropriated for relief was spent until it ran out, and a deficiency appropriation was voted, if necessary, to finance the last few months. But the new Illinois state administration is committed to a balanced budget, and the IPAC is trying to make it stick.

For the biennium ending June 30, 1951, the state legislature appropriated \$265,465,000 for public aid to be disbursed through the IPAC. The figure includes \$158,307,929 from state revenue and \$107,157,071 in federal money.

Of the \$265,465,000, about \$43,000,000 was set aside for general relief purposes, \$56,000,000 for ADC, and the rest for old age pensions, blind assistance and administrative costs. But the biennium began while unemployment was going up.

For July, the IPAC authorized release of \$1,799,834 to Chicago and other local governments for general relief purposes. The Alvin E. Rose, Chicago relief fund allocation will run about \$2,69,124. If the rest of the appropriation were divided evenly among the remaining 22 months, the amount available would be only \$1,762,940 a month. So the IPAC ordered the cut.

Commissioned, said the 10 per cent slash in state grants would mean a cut of 20 to 25 per cent in the food budget of 45,016 on the Chicago relief rolls, since fixed expenses such as rent, light and fuel couldn't be cut.

Joseph L. Moss, Cook County welfare director, said 35,277 children would have to eat less in his county because of the 5 per cent ADC cut. Both Rose and Moss said food budgets already had been figured at the minimum necessary to maintain health. The cut will mean a dietary deficiency.

Earl J. McMahon, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, and William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, asked Governor Stevenson to rescind the cut.

The labor leaders suggested the health needs of the relief clients and dependent children be met first, and the deficiency in the budget be made up later. As Mr. Rose expressed it: "We are now in the ironic position of having millions of dollars in the cash drawer without being able to give our people enough to eat."

Mr. Green, who described the "Beat Taft" campaign as the biggest political undertaking the federation has ever made, said a voluntary contribution of \$2 will be sought from each of the AFL's 500,000 members in Ohio.

He explained that this was but a part of the fund-raising drive to be undertaken by the AFL's political Education, to raise similar \$2 contributions from each of the AFL's nearly 8,000,000 members, their families, and friends of the labor movement. The funds obtained will be used to finance election campaign activities on both the national level and at the "grass roots" in every election precinct.

Mr. Green said the main objective of the AFL drive in 1950 would be to unseat the Ohio Senator, coauthor of the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law, and any one else who voted for the measure.

While Senator Taft will be the chief AFL target, LLPE is pointing to the defeat of other anti-labor Senators who must go to the electorate next year. These include Homer E. Capehart of Indiana, Forest C. Donnell of Missouri, and Eugene Milliken of Colorado.

Another feature of the AFL campaign will be to lend its support to those men seeking reelection to the Senate who have demonstrated by their actions in Washington that they are sympathetic to the goals of the organized labor movement.

Senators in this group who face stiff opposition in their own states are: Wayne Morse of Oregon, Carl Hayden of Arizona, Lister Hill of Alabama, Olin D. Johnson of South Carolina, Brien McMahon of Connecticut, Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, Francis J. Meyers of Pennsylvania, Calude Pepper of Florida, and Elbert D. Thomas of Utah.

AFL Union Leader Named To ECA Post

Washington, Aug. 29.—Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul G. Hoffman announced the appointment, effective immediately, of Michael J. P. Hogan of New York as labor advisor to the ECA mission in Norway. Hogan will take over the duties previously carried out by John Gross, former labor advisor who is now chief of the mission.

Hogan, a member of the New York Typographers Union, served as president of that organization from 1934 to 1948. He also served as chairman of the Allied Printing Trades Council, Board of Trustees, for 13 years. In addition, he was chairman of the Eastern Conference of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers Union of North America.

During the entire war the AFL union leader served as chairman of Draft Board No. 279, and in the latter stages of the war was chairman of a group of 9 boards.

Hogan, who is 54, is a veteran of World War I. He is a member of the American Legion, the Catholic War Veterans, the Elks, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.