

GREEN SAYS LABOR CAN WIN 1950 ELECTIONS

Contract Worker- Security Spreads

Washington.—Despite the attitude of the steel industry, there is nothing new in the recommendation of the President's special board of inquiry for insurance and old-age protection for its workers.

Under collective bargaining agreements now in effect, there are more than 3,000,000 workers covered by some type of health, welfare, or retirement plans. In addition, many unions and employers originated and control separate benefit plans.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor reported to the AFL convention last year that, in 1947, AFL unions paid out over \$60,000,000 worth of benefit claims under various union-sponsored plans.

Incorporation of "security" plans in union agreements has spread rapidly in recent years. According to statistics of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 1,250,000 workers were covered by such programs in early 1947. By mid-1948 the figure had reached 3,000,000. Current estimates greatly exceed that number.

Early union-sponsored "security" plans were financed entirely by members through dues or special assessments. After World I, rising benefit costs, financial instability resulting from the depression and the enactment of the Social Security Act in 1935 led many unions to revise or end their self-financed benefit schemes. Others have continued and are still effective.

Some employers also have for many years made available, with and without employee contributions, direct medical services, hospitalization and cash payments during disability, as well as group life insurance and pension plans. The railroads or companies closely associated with them were the first to set up formal plan for old-age disability relief.

Between 1900 and 1930, the number of welfare plans sponsored by employers increased substantially. Organized labor, because it had no voice in the administration and was not protected by contractual obligation, did not wholeheartedly endorse such plans.

A survey by the bureau of Labor Statistics of 15,636 manufacturing establishments in 1945 and 1946 showed that 47 per cent had insurance or pension plans for their workers. Life insurance plans were found in 37 per cent.

Veterans Should Gather Dependency Information

Veterans planning to enter school or job training under the G. I. Bill this fall should begin now gathering necessary evidence of dependency for subsistence allowance purposes, if such evidence is not already on file with the Veterans Administration.

Such evidence can be held by the veteran until entering training, submitting it to the VA with the completed certificate of eligibility.

The VA especially reminds those veterans who have had previous G. I. Bill training, that increased subsistence payments cannot be granted prior to the date all satisfactory evidence is received by the VA. Therefore, veterans with additional dependents to claim should secure the proper documentary evidence to submit to the VA immediately.

Satisfactory evidence of marriage consists of (1) a certified copy of the public or church record of the marriage, and (2) a completed VA form titled "De-

health insurance insurance in 30 per cent and retirement pension systems in 5 per cent.

Health and welfare programs under collective bargaining have been in effect, in isolated cases, since the late '20s, the bureau said. Progress was slow during the 1930's, and at the outbreak of World War II relatively few union agreements made provision for such benefits.

The war period stimulated the growth of plans and also brought a number of existing employer plans within the scope of union agreements. Government controls during the war limited direct wage increases. Employers were financially able to make concessions, and in most cases they were willing to do so to hold their employees. The result was a burgeoning of insurance and pension benefit plans.

Other factors contributing to the growth of health and welfare plans were favorable tax regulations and a growing feeling that federal social security benefits no longer were adequate.

PROFIT POSITION BETTER IN BRITISH COAL MINES

London.—Britain's nationalized coal mines continued to show a profit in the second quarter of this year, but earnings declined in comparison with the first quarter.

The National Coal Board, which manages the mines, reported that colliery profits for the second quarter were 6,000,000 pounds, or 25,389,000 pounds against 7,200,000 pounds in the first quarter. The board's surplus after providing for interest and taxes was 2,400,000 pounds in the second quarter and 3,800,000 in the first.

Taking the surplus for the two quarters together an annual profit of about 6,000,000 pounds would be indicated, compared with a loss of 23,200,000 pounds in the first year of nationalization and a profit of 1,700,000 pounds in the second year.

Hotel Union Completes Its First Institute

Cincinnati.—Thirty-five key hotel and restaurant union members from points as far apart as Juneau, Alaska, and Miami, Fla., have just completed the first labor education institute in the 58-year history of their union.

They are members of the AFL's Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. With 430,000 members, it is third largest of the AFL international affiliates.

Successful completion of the pioneer education project, held in co-operation with the School for Workers of the University of Wisconsin, was announced here by R. L. Davis, the union's director of research and education.

Expenses of the school, Davis explained, were shared by the international headquarters here and local unions of students awarded scholarships. The parent union met tuition and living expenses, while the locals paid transportation costs for the student.

Rank-and-file members as well as local officers were represented in the group, which included cooks, waiters and waitresses, bartenders, hotel service workers and dining car employees from all parts of the U. S. and Canada.

Students received 69 hours of classroom instruction, in addition to numerous evening seminars, at the hands of a faculty which included teachers from the University of Colorado and the University of Chicago as well as Wisconsin and the union's own staff.

Subjects taught at the school ranged from the economics of the hotel and restaurant industry through courses in collective bargaining, labor legislation, labor history, methods of union education and internal union problems.

"Special emphasis was placed on the low-wage structure of the hotel and restaurant field," Davis said, "and its direct bearing upon the general economic stability of the country. The entire nation suffers when most of the 1,600,000 workers in this industry are paid wages which will not support the standards of living the nation needs to remain on a high level of prosperity."

Graduates of the school, Davis said, returned to their homes expecting to inaugurate labor education programs of their own as the first step toward setting up a national education program reaching into every one of the union's 800 local unions.

"Success of this first institute," he pointed out, "indicates a wide interest among organized workers in gaining information through planned education activities which will help them in controlling the course of events which bear directly on the lives of working people everywhere."



VACATION'S END
If you don't want your vacation to end like this, remember this: Speed kills! One out of every three fatal motor vehicle accidents involves excessive speed. Take it easy and live!
Be Careful—the life you save may be your own!

Green On West Coast



Leading American workers in their observance of Labor Day at the San Diego Labor Day Jubilee, AFL President William Green was assisted by royalty. Shown above with Mr. Green are Pat Gergen, Mission Bay Festival Queen (at his left), and her maids of honor.

Discharge For Cursing Overruled By Examiner

By Dan Smyth, Chicago Correspondent, International Labor News Service

Marion, Ind.—Ruling that use of profanity is no longer proof of moral irresponsibility Louis Plost, a trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board recommended reinstatement of a woman employe discharged by the Indianapolis Glove Co., of Marion.

The employe, Edna Ruggles was a member of the International Glove Workers Union (AFL), which brought unfair labor practice charges against the company after her dismissal. Plost held she should be returned to work and given back pay for lost earnings since March 15, 1948.

During hearings, the company said use of "excess and loud profanity" was one of the reasons for firing the young woman. But the examiner found her vulgar expressions "consisted of disrespectful references to the ancestry of an inanimate piece of machinery, the use of the word 'damned' and the like."

Her utterances, he continued "were clearly imprecations which sprang from vexation, impotence, annoyance, anger, frustration, and spoken under sudden impulse, and, as such, were not in any sense real blasphemy."

Language resulting from such causes is not intended to indicate disrespect for the Deity, Plost went on. Common usage has obscured the original meaning of the words. He developed this thought:

"The day when a curse was designed and intended to call down the wrath of Heaven upon any object, animate or inanimate has happily passed. Today, the words of imprecation, cursing and blasphemy survive in our speech shorn of their real meaning."

"Time was when even the use of such 'swear words,' devoid of blasphemous intent or meaning, had a proper and respected place in our language. Their use was a great art, reaching its noblest perfection, both by word and inflection, among men whose lives were bound to beasts of burden.

"In the armies of the past, the cavalry man, the artillery man but most of all the mule skinner, mastered the art, and raised it to great heights.

"But, alas, the coming of the gasoline engine has removed the living spur to expressive, non-blasphemous profanity until now only a pale substitute survives.

"The words are remembered but the music has been lost."

"UNION LABEL WEEK"
NOW ON THE CALENDAR

This week, A. J. Ratchford, superintendent of the Shenandoah Public Schools, notified I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, that "Union Label week" is being placed on the official calendar of those Pennsylvania schools. He requested a representative of the Union Label Trades Department to address the high school pupils on the subject of "Union Label Week."

"I note that the American Federation of Labor is designating the week of September 3rd through the 10th, as 'Union Label Week,'" Mr. Ratchford said, and added, "I commend you for this action particularly since there are so many other organizations that have already set up designated weeks for the purpose of creating better public relations. For a number of years, I have assembled many of these special weeks and I am taking the liberty of sending you a sample of our monthly calendar which lists certain weeks and special days for whatever recognition the principals and teachers find it proper to give them, and I am very happy to be able to add 'Union Label Week' to this list."

Dedicates Building For Boilermakers

Kansas City.—AFL President William Green declared that "an overwhelming victory for the cause of progress" will be assured "if the members of our trade unions and their families and friends make certain to register and to vote on Election Day next year."

Asserting that the 1950 congressional campaign is already under way, the AFL leader said that labor has the votes required to oust anti-labor foes from Congress and to break up the reactionary coalition which has been sabotaging President Truman's legislative program.

LOUISVILLE FIRST TO SIGN UP FOR 1950 UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

Director I. M. Ornburn, of the Union Industries Shows, announced this week that the City of Louisville, Kentucky, was the first exhibitor to sign a contract for display space for the next labor-management exhibition to be held during May, 1950, in Philadelphia. Louisville participated in the exhibition held, last May, in Cleveland and Mayor Charles Farnsley indicated at that time that he was so enthusiastic over the American Federation of Labor's annual event that he wanted Louisville to be the first city to sign up for the next show.

"A majority of the exhibitors who participated in the 1949 Union Industries Show will make reservations for display space in the 1950 exhibition to be held in Convention Hall in Philadelphia," said Mr. Ornburn, "and with this wonderful response from our old friends and also the excellent prospects for new exhibitors the success of the 1950 Show is guaranteed."

IBEW WINS PAY BOOST FOR 10,000 IN 4 STATES

Cincinnati.—Between 8,000 and 10,000 members of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers will get a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour under a new contract with 25 contracting firms in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

The announcement was made by Gordon M. Freeman, a vice president of the union.

He said new wage rates in 14 classifications would range from \$11.22 an hour for "ground laborers" and \$2.12 for "journeyman mechanics."

LEO E. GEORGE, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF POST OFFICE CLERKS, SAYS:



"Real co-operation, as well as self preservation, requires that union wages be spent for union products. The fair employer is one who employs union labor. Every person is an employer when he purchases anything that requires labor to produce. It is essential, therefore, that every union member insist upon the Union Label, Shop Card, or Button when spending union wages."

Mr. Green spoke at dedication ceremonies of a splendid new office building here erected by the AFL's International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers of America. He participated with Charles J. MacGowan, president of the union, and representatives of labor, government and civic life.

One floor of the new and imposing edifice will be occupied as the national headquarters for the Boilermakers Union. The remaining space in the 9-story structure will be leased out in accordance with the union's plan to utilize the building as a sound investment of union funds.

In his address of dedication, Mr. Green paid tribute to the outstanding record of the union in service to the nation during the last war, with particular emphasis upon the production feats achieved in the output of Victory and Liberty ships from the West Coast shipyards. He said:

"I know of no other union which can boast of a more inspiring record of all-out service and all-out devotion to the cause of victory.

"Now and in the years to come, this modern edifice will stand as a symbol of the constructive achievements and the remarkable progress which your organization has attained in behalf of its members and the nation as a whole. It is a fitting monument and testimonial to the enduring benefits of sound and free trade unionism."

Assailing the twin forces of Communism and reaction which seek to undermine these benefits, Mr. Green pledged that the American labor movement will stand as an impassable barrier against offensives launched from either quarter.

On the domestic front, Mr. Green said that the attainment of labor's program for an expanding economy with higher standards of living for all American citizens would forestall any trend toward a depression which, he said, would prove "a tragedy for all mankind."

He charged that the foes of labor have launched a desperate propaganda campaign to mislead the American voters and to obscure the real issues in the forthcoming election campaign. He added:

"Last November, we placed our case before the American people for decision and the results appeared to be a clear mandate in favor of labor's position. However, the diehards in Congress thus far have paid very little attention to the election results. And so, in the American way and in the American tradition, we are going back to the people in the congressional elections next year for a completely unmistakable verdict.

"I call upon all American workers everywhere to dedicate themselves to their high responsibility as good citizens. Let each of us pledge to discharge those responsibilities by casting our ballots on Election Day and thereby do our part toward keeping our beloved country free and strong."