

Convention Ends Work

Green Praises Hoffman for ECA Job



AFL President William Green (left) tells Paul G. Hoffman what a good job he is doing as administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration. Introducing Mr. Hoffman at the St. Paul convention, Mr. Green said his agency is doing more than any other government arm to establish international peace and security.

Officials Greet Each Other at Dinner



AFL Vice-President Matthew Woll (left) and J. Scott Milne, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood Electrical Workers, shake hands at one of many dinners held during St. Paul convention by local unions.

European Representative Sees World Situation Worsening

St. Paul.—The international situation has quickly taken a very serious turn for the worse, Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, told the 68th AFL convention.

He said the new democratic world labor organization to be formed in London starting November 28 by the AFL and other free trade union movements must move swiftly and purposefully to defeat the Soviet Union's menacing moves against world peace.

Brown said the new world labor movement must begin immediately to:

1. Resist and throw back the attempts of the Cominform to utilize the labor movement in order to achieve the objectives of the Soviet Union.
2. Deal with the economic and political problems that the Communists have forced upon the workers in various parts of the world.

"This new world labor movement," Brown said, "will either be an aggressive, dynamic, fighting world labor movement for the restoration of free trade unionism, or it will not succeed in the light of the present world situation which is so charged with war and aggression."

He said the AFL has played a great role in bringing about this new world movement and will play a great role at the London congress.

These are the "grave and critical" developments which Brown said threaten new wars:

1. The Chinese Communists march continues unchecked and is beginning to dominate entire southeast Asia; the whole Far East is ablaze with a very hot war.
2. Western Europe and England are on the eve of and have been in the process of going through grave economic developments.
3. On the borders of Yugoslavia the Soviet Union is engaging in war-rattling moves that Hitler himself never engaged in without going to war; Eastern Europe is being whipped into a totalitarian system under Soviet domination.
4. Communist infiltration continues in the western European trade union movement and menaces the economy of France, Italy, and all democracies of western Europe and our own.

"We stand in the shadow of a new world treachery and the cold war is being dangerously transformed into one of increasingly warm temperature," Brown said. "Once again the world is in danger of war. Once again aggression is threatening from a single totalitarianism."

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Green Tells Lewis Labor Must Unite

Washington.—AFL President William Green said the "crying need" now in organized labor's fight for an improved standard of living is for organic unity within the ranks of labor.

In a letter to President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, Mr. Green said that "the pooling of labor's resources while divided as it is today is impossible and impracticable."

Mr. Green's letter was a reply to Mr. Lewis' suggestion that nine AFL unions and the miners contribute \$250,000 each per week to the CIO United Steelworkers to help win that union's strike against the steel industry. Mr. Green said:

"In acknowledging receipt of your letter dated October 14, permit me to assure you that the information you transmitted and the suggestions and proposals you made have been given careful, profound and sympathetic consideration."

"Those of us who have lived with the organized labor movement during an entire lifetime are moved by a sincere desire and hope that workers who are engaged in a fight for the realization of a higher standard of living and improved social and economic conditions shall win."

"In commenting upon your suggestion, I am moved by a sense of duty to refresh your memory regarding the organizational structure of the American Federation of Labor with which you are quite familiar. As you well know, every national and international union chartered by the American Federation of Labor, is clothed with autonomous authority to administer its own affairs without limitation or restriction. The officers and members of each national and international union formulate policies and regulate the expenditure of funds, free from interference in any way on the part of the American Federation of Labor. For that reason each national and international union must determine for itself as to whether it could or would disburse one-quarter of a million dollars per week for an indefinite period as suggested in your communication."

"It is my opinion that the officers of each national and international union should be free to determine their own policies and to regulate their own funds."

Convention Urges Taft-Hartley Repeal

St. Paul.—The 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor unanimously threw its full support into the formation of a new democratic world labor federation and declared for a United States foreign policy to strengthen the free peoples all over the world.

These are the highlights of the AFL stand on international questions:

1. Creation of a new world trade union movement to cement free democratic trade unions of the world into a powerful federation to oppose communist efforts to infiltrate the trade union movement and to wipe out slave labor.
2. Provide military aid to Asia and China to repel Communist aggression and economic aid to strengthen Europe on a continental scale.
3. Withhold friendship from anti-labor and antidemocratic governments in Latin America.
4. Throw the full resources of this country into President Truman's "point 4" declaration to supply technical assistance to the underdeveloped areas of Asia, Latin America, Africa and other parts of the world.

Against Russian Appeasement
Summarizing the critical international situation, the convention statement of policy asserted that the atomic explosion by imperialist Russia has violently contracted the peaceful world.

"We firmly warn against any attempts to revive a policy of appeasement of Soviet imperialism at this critical juncture," the AFL said.

The AFL called the Communist totalitarian empire "a robotized, monolithic despotism stretching from Berlin to beyond the Yangtze."

"This Red tyranny is further but-

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Firefighters President Admires Her Hat



John P. Redmon, president of the International Association of Firefighters, admires one of the seven hats worn to the St. Paul convention by Carmen Lucia, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and advocate of intensive southern organizing campaign.

Hoffman Talks to Reporters at Convention



Paul G. Hoffman (in front of microphone), economic cooperation administrator, answers questions of newsmen from Washington, New York, Chicago and other cities covering St. Paul convention.

Randolph Presents Anti-Bias Award to Green



President A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters presents award to AFL President William Green in honor of his long fight against discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin. Occasion was highlight of the AFL's 68th convention at St. Paul. President Lee W. Minton of Glass Bottle Blowers Association watches.

tional union to whom your proposal might be submitted would immediately inquire if President Murray of the Steel Workers International Union requested you to solicit \$250,000 per week from international unions of the American Federation of Labor. Has Mr. Murray requested the amount of financial assistance referred to in your proposal? Is your proposal based upon a request you received from Mr. Murray for financial assistance? This inquiry would, in my judgment, be made by international officers because Mr. Murray has never either directly or indirectly requested any financial assistance from the representatives of international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. So far as I know, he has never asked any representatives of the American Fed-

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Urges Labor Unity



W. C. Doherty, president of National Association of Letter Carriers and AFL vice-president, reports to St. Paul convention as chairman on organization urging continued efforts toward achieving unity within the labor movement.

Meany Tells Tobin of AFL Actions



AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, left, brings Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin up to date on AFL actions during cabinet member's visit on second day of 68th convention in St. Paul.

Council Members at St. Paul Convention



Four members of the executive council study proposal before 68th AFL convention in their places on platform 1. to 4.: AFL Vice-Presidents Herman Winter, president Bakery and Confectionery Workers; W. G. Birthright, president Barbers and Hairdressers; Dan W. Tracy, president Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Matthew Woll of the Engravers Union.

President Truman Promises Support For AFL Program

St. Paul.—President Truman praised the AFL for helping to make America "the best fed, best clothed, and best housed nation in all history."

In a message to President Green read to the 68th annual convention, Mr. Truman pledged his "full support" in rounding out a program to give many additional Americans the protection of adequate minimum wages, agricultural price support, more and better housing, and greater educational opportunities.

Mr. Truman promised that repeal of the Taft-Hartley law "is a matter of unfinished business which we can agree will be finished to the satisfaction of working men and women in response to the voice and wishes of the American people."

In extending his greetings to the convention, Mr. Truman said:

"The American Federation of Labor through all its long history has been a leader in championing the rights of wage earners and helping to gain for them better and safer working conditions, greater social security and an increasingly high standard of living. Particularly since 1933 has your organization cooperated with the national administration for the enactment of a wide program of forward-looking legislation in the interest of wage earners, farmers and in the public interest as well."

"Such legislation has been a most important factor in making the American standard of living the highest in the world. We are the best fed, best clothed, and best housed nation in all history. With approximately 60,000,000 men and women at work with the profits

of industry high we can, and we will, maintain our living standards and improve them for those of our people who are underprivileged.

"Many additional Americans need the protection of adequate minimum wages, of agricultural price supports, of more and better housing and of greater educational opportunities. They will have their needs satisfied through the cooperation of wage earners and farmers with their government. Be assured your unions and all progressive Americans will have my full support in rounding out much needed programs to insure the Fair Deal goal for the benefit of all the people of the nation."

"This is the cause to which we are dedicated. It may be delayed by the tactics of those who live in the dark ages of social thinking and oppose anything to benefit their less privileged fellow men, but in the end it will triumph if we continue to stand together and meet the challenge in the best interest of all patriotic American groups."

"Since your last convention the U. S. Department of Labor, which had been stripped of its power and influence by the 80th Congress, has been largely restored to its proper status as I pledged you it would be. However, the Taft-Hartley Labor Law has not yet been repealed although the nation voted for such action in accepting the forthright platform of the Democratic party last November."

"That is a matter of unfinished business which we can agree will be finished to the satisfaction of working men and women in response to the voice and wishes of the American people."