

GREEN OPENS AFL PUSH FOR MORE HOUSING

Millions Added To Buying Power By 75c Wage; New AFL Contracts

Signature Makes Minimum Pay 75 Cents



Washington.—AFL President William Green (right) and Richard J. Gray (over Mr. Green's shoulder) watches with Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin as President Truman signs the law raising the legal minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour. All workers engaged in essential interstate commerce must be paid at least 75 cents an hour beginning next January 24.

Postal Workers And Others Share In Wage Increases

WASHINGTON.—Additional purchasing power for millions of AFL members and other workers totaling more than one-half billion dollars annually are provided by:

- (1) Signing of a new minimum wage law.
- (2) Pay raises for 1,500,000 government employees.
- (3) Thousands of new contract increases recently negotiated by AFL unions.

This "shot in the arm" for the nation's economy means more jobs, better living, higher production and consumption spread throughout the country.

It resulted largely from the efforts of the AFL to raise the legal minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents by congressional action; to amend government wage laws to raise salaries, and to win pay increases and other benefits in contract negotiations with private employers.

The AFL will continue its drive for broader coverage of the minimum wage law. AFL unions will insist on more money and other benefits in contract negotiations the remainder of this year and in 1950.

AFL President William Green headed a group of AFL officials who witnessed President Truman's formal signing of the amend-

ments to the Fair Labor Standards Act raising the legal minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour. The new minimum goes into effect January 25.

With Mr. Green were Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades department; James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Metal Trades department, and Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization.

Mr. Truman said that the law "is a major victory in our fight to promote the general welfare of the people of the United States." He said he regretted that its coverage had been limited by restrictive provisions.

The AFL's 68th convention in St. Paul voted to fight in the next year to expand the coverage

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Small Town Unionists Show Need To Vote

By DAN SMYTH

Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

OGLESBY, Ill.—The people of Oglesby, a small town of 42,000 citizens and two grammar schools, have given a demonstration in miniature of the effectiveness of political action in accomplishment of labor's aims.

The AFL Trades and Labor Council had trouble for several months with the Oglesby school board over a union teacher's grievance. So the council put up its own slate of candidates and elected a new school board.

The teacher's grievance is now considered settled. Mrs. Helen Mecum, the teacher, is a member of the Tri-Cities Teachers' Federation, a local of the American Federation of Teachers. The same local also represents teachers at LaSalle and Peru, Ill.

Illinois has a state teachers' tenure law under which three years of teaching experience qualifies the teacher for permanent status. The first two years are considered probationary, during which the school board may drop the teacher without formal charges or a trial.

Last spring, at the end of Mrs. Mecum's probationary period, the Oglesby school board decided to dismiss her. The union objected. The matter was presented to the Trades and Labor Council, which supported Mrs. Mecum.

Wayne C. Butler, superintendent of schools, and the board charged organized labor was challenging their right

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Rents Up Again As Living Costs Take Big Jump

WASHINGTON.—Residential rents continued their uninterrupted steady increase in September as the cost of living took its sharpest upward jump since last March.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the retail prices of goods and services for moderate-income urban families advanced one-half of 1 per cent between August 15 and September 15. This matched the biggest monthly increase of 1949 recorded last March 15th.

Foods rose eight-tenths of 1 per cent; fuel, electricity and refrigeration nine-tenths of 1 per cent; house furnishings four-tenths of 1 per cent; miscellaneous goods and services three-tenths of 1 per cent. Clothing declined two-tenths of 1 per cent.

The over-all consumers' price index on Sept. 15 was 189.6 per cent of the 1935-39 average. This was 3 per cent lower than a year ago but still 27 per cent higher than in June 1946 and 72 per cent above August 1939.

The rise in food prices pushed them back to the level of last June and the increase in prices of other major groups wiped out the declines of two to four months.

But there was no change in the trend of residential rents. These have been moving upward monthly for more than two years. The rise has not been so sharp as in some of the other groups in the index but it has been unbroken. Economists say the end of the rise is not in sight because a tremendous housing shortage still exists and because federal rent controls are ending in many places, both conditions tending to push rents even higher.

Housing Expeditor Tighe E. Woods announced that in six months under the 1949 housing act he had ended rent controls over 2,268,046 units.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said this resulted in rents continuing upward.

"In anticipation of more general decontrol, the bureau has increased the frequency of its rent survey," the bureau revealed.

"In the three-month period ending September 15, higher rents were reported in 10 of the 11 cities surveyed. Rents in Jacksonville, Fla., rose 9.3 per cent between June and September with most of the rise following removal of controls on August 5. Between August and September rents in Houston, Tex., rose 2.4 per cent in advance of termination of controls to become effective October 19."

PHILIP HANNAH SPEARHEAD OF OHIO LABOR'S DRIVE TO DEFEAT VOTE LAW CHANGES

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—Philip Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Federation of Labor, is co-chairman of the newly formed United Labor League of Ohio spearheading the drive to defeat proposed changes in the state's voting laws in November.

The league represents 1,200,000 trade unionists in Ohio belonging to the Ohio State Federation of Labor, Ohio CIO Council, United Mine Workers, International Association of Machinists, Communications Workers of America, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Maintenance of Way Employees.

Advertising "Slickers" At Work In Charlotte Territory

According to information given The Charlotte Labor Journal by many of The Journal's advertisers advertising solicitors are calling upon local business firms via telephone either telling the advertisers they are representing The Labor Journal or else giving the prospective advertiser that impression, although the solicitors are working on another publication. The Charlotte Labor Journal warns the local merchants and other business firms to be sure and inquire thoroughly into this brand of false solicitation in order that they will not be misled to place their advertising in a publication vaguely representing itself to be The Charlotte Labor Journal.

Be sure to look at your invoice when you receive it and make sure that it bears the name of The Charlotte Labor Journal. If you have bought an advertisement believing that you were giving it to The Charlotte Labor Journal and are presented with an invoice bearing another paper's name you were misled and have every right to refuse to pay for it and if you will furnish The Charlotte Labor Journal with the necessary information that will aid in prosecution The Journal will stand all costs involved in prosecuting any and all imposters using its name in their dishonest solicitations.

Also, anyone telling you that The Charlotte Labor Journal is no longer an American Federation of Labor newspaper is doing nothing but misinforming you. The Journal has been an American Federation of Labor newspaper since 1931 and expects to continue to represent the American Federation of Labor. Please report to The Journal anything you hear to the contrary.

The Charlotte Labor Journal is the oldest Labor publication in North and South Carolina, steadfastly representing The American Federation of Labor since it was founded in 1931 by the present publisher and the present associate editor. It has had long periods of rough sailing but it has stuck to its course, as charted in the beginning.

Be alert! Do not be misled by those who may misinform you to further selfish aims! Our telephone is 5-1778. Call us if in doubt regarding any solicitation you receive.

Many advertisers tell us they are receiving telephone solicitations from as far away as New York from a labor publication claiming to represent North Carolina Labor by having a large circulation here. Do not be misled and spend your money unwisely, for this cannot possibly be true. The Charlotte Labor Journal has always maintained a policy to not knock any legitimate North Carolina Labor publication, but henceforth its policy will be to "fight fire with fire." If others in our ranks motivated with a desire to destroy one of North Carolina's oldest and most patriotic labor institutions continue to pursue such a libelous policy to further their selfish gains, then The Charlotte Labor Journal will be compelled to defend itself against all such prevaricators. The Journal thanks you for your past support and patronage and solicits your continued good will for Labor and The Journal. Our first aim is to serve even greater in the future.

H. A. STALLS, Publisher.

OFFICIALS GREET EACH OTHER AT DINNER



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

WASHINGTON.—President William Green opened the big new AFL push to get a minimum 15,000,000 homes built in the next 10 years, and to keep effective rent controls until the supply of low-price housing units can be equalized.

Mr. Green sent a letter to all central labor unions calling their attention to the housing program adopted by the 68th AFL convention in St. Paul and urging them to mobilize their full support for its realization.

"I urge each central labor body, if it has not already done so, to establish a housing committee," Mr. Green wrote. "Because the AFL Housing committee is very much concerned with these questions, I would appreciate it if you would notify Harry C. Bates, chairman of that committee, of the name of the chairman of your local committee. In addition, Mr. Bates as well as myself would like to be kept informed on AFL

activity on housing in your community."

Mr. Green quoted from the convention; statement of policy "Recent developments in the field of housing make it abundantly clear that AFL unions must maintain particular vigilance on these matters during the coming year."

"The most practical method of handling problems of housing is through community-wide activity by local trade union groups. In particular we urge each central body and each building trades council to establish a housing committee."

"These housing committees would have the following function:

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Invite Truman to Gompers Dinner



Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, left, and President William Green leave White House smiling after receiving President Truman's assurances to attend the Samuel Gompers Centenary Memorial Dinner on January 5 in Washington's Hotel Statler "if engagements and work permit."

Million Members Sought Thru State Federations

By CHARLES J. MACGOWAN

President Boilermakers Brotherhood, AFL Vice President and Chairman of 68th Convention Committee on State Organizations

The aims of the AFL's Samuel Gompers Memorial Organization Drive in 1950 are set forth by Vice President MacGowan in this summary of the convention's action in St. Paul broadcast by Voice of America.

The American Federation of Labor will embark on a gigantic organizing campaign next January to enroll at least a million new members during 1950.

This drive was ordered by unanimous vote of the 68th convention.

It is our purpose to conduct this organizing campaign at the state level, through the various state Federations of Labor. Coinciding with it will be a political drive to prevail upon all of the 8,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor to make certain to register and vote in the 1950 congressional elections and elections for members of the state legislatures.

Labor has been taking such a beating in Congress and the State legislatures in recent years through the enactment of repressive and restrictive laws that the trade union movement is determined to launch a concentrated effort to correct the situation and obtain justice for the nation's workers. So we are going back to first principles—organize the unorganized and get out the vote.

In order to qualify to vote each citizen must register. Unfortunately many millions of our citizens in the past have neglected to do so. The American Federation of Labor, through its political arm, Labor's League for Political Education, will undertake a nation-wide registration drive next year and will do its utmost to bring out the highest possible registration and a record-breaking vote in 1950.

Needless to say, the convention again called upon Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act. The delegates were informed that since the act went into effect, 56 court injunctions have been sought in labor-management disputes, but of those only two were against employers. The 54 were

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