

TOBIN SAYS '49 SAW LABOR GAIN GROUND SIU ASKS CONGRESS TO SEE HIRING HALL

Sterling Hicks Reports On Latest Developments In Dispute With WBT

LOCAL RADIO TECHNICIANS BUSINESS MANAGER
STATES THAT DISCHARGED TECHNICIANS GAINING SYMPATHIZERS AMONG MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS AS WELL AS LABOR.

Report Made To Charlotte Central Labor Union Dec. 8

Members of Radio Technicians Local No. 1229, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) have continued to peacefully picket Radio Station WBT since their discharge by the Radio Station management on September 3 at which time 10 engineers were let off their jobs.

The Radio Union local during this period has carried its version of the dispute to the ranks of organized labor throughout this section and also has communicated with thousands of citizens of Charlotte and vicinity, informing them of their position in the dispute with WBT.

Sterling L. Hicks, business manager of Technicians Local 1229, I. B. E. W., who has been handling the case since the dispute with WBT first arose, writes The Labor Journal this week that the local Technicians have received many letters of encouragement from both business firms and individuals during the past several weeks. Mr. Hicks said one such sympathizer has written in, saying in part: "It seems to us that it's (the dispute) getting to be a long drawn out affair with nobody becoming the winner and with many losers. We sincerely urge you (WBT) to do what you can to help settle this dispute."

Continuing, Mr. Hicks, writes further: "Thousands of post cards have been sent out by friends and well-wishers of the discharged technicians stating: 'It is my understanding the management of Radio Station WBT has unjustly discharged ten engineers for union activity. To me such action is inexcusable. The union states they are agreeable to letting an impartial arbitrator decide whether the company's action was justified, but WBT refuses to arbitrate. I am sure that you agree with me no company interested in justice would take such an attitude toward its employes.'

"To these cards many individuals and business managers have replied," says Mr. Hicks, who quotes from one of the letters his union has received, as follows:

"We are much appreciative of your recent card informing us of the action which the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company, which operates WBT, has taken in discharging ten engineers for union activity. We heartily agree with you that such action is inexcusable, as any company which tries to stifle union activities by highhanded methods is about twenty years behind the times."

"The dispute between Jefferson Standard (WBT) and the ten unjustly discharged technicians, members of IBEW local Union No. 1229, began on July 6 when the company demanded that they have the right to discharge technicians without just cause. The union desired to continue the provision in the old agreement which had proved satisfactory and adequate for both parties for several years. Jefferson Standard (WBT) would not agree to continue the old provision but demanded a change to allow discharge of technicians for any or no reason, just or unjust, regardless of length of service or ability to perform his duties. The union would not agree to such an unfair demand and offered to settle the question by arbitration before an impartial arbitrator, selected by mutual agreement. Jefferson Standard (WBT) rejected all such offers.

"After Jefferson Standard's (WBT) refusal to arbitrate the matter in dispute the technicians began peacefully picketing, without striking, the WBT studios, to inform the public of the unfair attitude of the company towards its employes. The company became enraged at the 10 picketing technicians and discharged them in the middle of the night, without notice, hearing or consideration.

"Since the date of the discharge the technicians have continued to picket the studios of WBT publicizing their unjust discharge. Over 50,000 families in the State of North Carolina and have received pamphlets from the union giving the true facts in the dispute," Mr. Hicks states.

Technicians' delegates appeared before the Charlotte Central Labor Union this week and also reported to AFL unions regarding the standing of the dispute up to date. Business Manager Hicks and his co-delegates were given the continued support and good-will of Charlotte labor in the radio workers' efforts to bring about a favorable termination of the local dispute.

"We have done everything humanly possible to get a settlement," Mr. Hicks told the CLU gathering. "It is about time WBT did its part."

NEW YORK.—The Seafarers International Union of the AFL has invited all members of Congress to see first hand the operation of the union hiring hall at 51 Beaver street.

The request is part of the fight against the Taft-Hartley law which the National Labor Relations Board and lower Federal courts have held outlaws the long-established hiring hall practices of the seamen's unions.

Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, who with Representative John Lesinski of Michigan, introduced measures exempting the maritime industry from the ban on the hiring hall, has promised a visit on his next trip to New York, a union spokesman said.

Mr. Lesinski, chairman of a subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, who recently led his 5-man delegation on a survey of Puerto Rico, is expected back soon on the Bull liner Puerto Rico and will also be urged to visit there before returning to Washington.

Mr. Lesinski and his fellow committeemen attended a shipboard union meeting on the trip South and addressed the crewmen. In addition, the committee wrote to Paul Hall, secretary-treasurer of the Seafarers Union, that the crewmen "performed their duties in a manner which was a credit to themselves and their union."

The Magnuson-Lesinski measures are still in committee. At present the hiring hall is considered a violation of the Taft-Hartley Act, as a result of a federal court ruling here. This month the National Maritime Union, CIO, will ask the Supreme Court to review this decision. If the high court sustains the ruling, negotiations between the unions and the steamship companies would be opened immediately because present contracts have terminating clauses in the event the hiring hall is finally outlawed.

Representative Louis B. Heller of Brooklyn was the first member of Congress to visit the hiring hall and he called it "the greatest single attainment in the interest of maritime labor." Following are excerpts from his report on his tour:

"An invitation was extended by Mr. Al Bernstein, international representative, Seafarers International Union, Atlantic and Gulf district, to myself and other members of the House to visit the Atlantic and Gulf district headquarters of the Seafarers International Union in New York. As a Congressman from the Brooklyn district embracing part of New York's waterfront, I felt it was my duty to accept the invitation.

"At the Seafarers I had an opportunity to see the hiring hall, backbone of today's free maritime tradeunionism, in operation. Here is where the democratic, equitable system of rotary shipping is utilized every hour on the hour. This method of dispatching men to jobs—on a first-come-first-served basis—represents the greatest single attainment in the interest of maritime labor and I learned that it has proved beneficial to the employers as well as the workers.

"It is the militant desire to protect this system of employment, from which the SIU's principal objection to the Taft-Hartley law arises. For the SIU, and the other maritime unions, assert that the Taft-Hartley law places this precious symbol of free tradeunionism in jeopardy."

Mr. Heller said that he was impressed by the Seafarers' desire to acquit their membership with the structure and functioning of the union through motion picture.

AFL Spokesmen In London



New York.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and AFL President William Green at the rail of the Ile de France which carried them to England for the London conference to establish a new "International Federation of Free Trade Unions." They headed the most impressive and historic AFL delegation ever to be sent abroad.

AFL-British Heads of Oldest Unions Meet



Washington.—Top officials of some of the longest-established and biggest unions in the United States and Great Britain were seated together at AFL luncheon honoring visiting British trade unionists. Left to right, AFL Vice-President David Dubinsky, president of International Ladies Garment Workers Union, one of the oldest industrial-craft unions on this side of the Atlantic; John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department whose unions were among the first formed in the United States; Frederick C. Fitzpatrick, executive council member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, one of Britain's earliest and most influential metal trades organizations; AFL President William Green, head of the longest-established, biggest and most influential American labor national body, and William E. Jones, Yorkshire area general secretary of the British Mine Workers Union, one of Britain's most militant industrial unions.

RAILWAY CLERKS TO MARK 50 YEARS WITH BIG DINNER

WASHINGTON.—George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks of the AFL, invited President Truman to attend the 50th anniversary celebration dinner of the union, to be held in Cincinnati on Dec. 29.

Mr. Harrison, extending the invitation during a White House visit, said that Mr. Truman indicated he would accept if his schedule permits.

Top AFL officials, other government officials and leaders have been invited to join in the affair honoring one of the oldest and biggest AFL unions, which speaks for clerks on all of the nation's railroads and major steamship lines.

Mr. Harrison, an AFL vice president, headed the Truman-Barkley labor committee set up in 1948 to return Mr. Truman to the White House. During his most recent call, Mr. Harrison informed Mr. Truman that the results of the recent elections indicated that Sen. Robert A. Taft would be beaten next year in Ohio for re-election.

OTTAWA, Canada.—The Canadian government still opposes the deduction of union dues for income tax purposes. Doctors, lawyers and other professionals are permitted income tax deduction of their association fees but the income tax department has ruled the trade unionists are not.

30,000 MEMBERS GRANTED BENEFITS BY EMPLOYERS WITHOUT HAVING STRIKES

WASHINGTON.—Two newly-signed wage agreements gave more than 30,000 AFL members in Middle Western states employer-financed pensions in the aluminum industry and health and welfare programs in the trucking industry.

They are part of a developing pattern of welfare benefits being won constantly by all AFL unions.

AFL officials pointed out that

Legislative Conference For Better Laws In 1950

WASHINGTON.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin told the 16th Annual Conference on State Labor Legislation that "we have better than held our own during the past year."

He suggested some legislative goals for 1950 and the conference promptly adopted a program urging again repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, liberalizing of unemployment compensation and establishment of a Federal labor extension service.

Mr. Tobin pledged the support of President Truman's administration to those objectives. The conference:

AFL MASTERS SAY SHIPOWNERS RAISE PHONY HIRING CRY

WASHINGTON.—The AFL Masters, Mates and Pilots Organization postponed a strike on East and Gulf Coasts until Dec. 15 at the request of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to guarantee the delivery of Christmas and CARE packages overseas.

But the Masters Union charged that shipowners had raised a completely phony issue over hiring practices in the industry.

Captain C. F. May, president of the union, said that the organization wants the same hiring practice agreement on the East and Gulf Coasts as has been granted to the union on the West Coast. He said this contract guarantees the right of shipowners to select their own employes and safeguards those employes against discriminatory discharge.

The Atlantic Coast shipowners have raised the issue that the contract provisions set up so-called rotation hiring.

"We charge," Captain May said in a statement, "that the employers are misstating the facts and have raised a completely phony issue in a vain attempt to deprive their trusted officers of deserved security and employment.

"We call upon the employers in the public interest to get down to business now and negotiate in good faith."

The postponement was the second agreed to by the union in an effort to keep American ships sailing. Both were granted despite the delaying, union-busting tactics of the shipowners during negotiations which began last September.

The union hoped that the latest postponement will enable its committee to reach a satisfactory agreement without a pre-Christmas strike.

both programs, among the more liberal settlements coming out of the 1949 pension and welfare negotiations, were won without strikes.

Green Tells Edwards AFL Views



Washington.—AFL President William Green expounds federation policies and views in conference with Frank Edwards, top-flight liberal commentator who begins new five-night a week newscast sponsored by the American Federation of Labor over Mutual Broadcasting System. Mr. Edwards takes up his new duties on sustaining basis on December 5 and under AFL sponsorship on January 2, from 10 to 11:15 p. m. EST, on 147 stations.

1. Unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming the action of the 1948 conference "in vigorously" urging repeal of the Labor-Management Relations (Taft-Hartley) Act of 1947 and all state legislation detrimental to the rights of organized workers.

2. Strongly endorsed legislation now pending in Congress for the establishment of a Labor Extension Service in the Department of Labor which would provide information, education and research facilities in the interest of fair and sound labor-management relations.

3. Declared its "vigorous" support of a bill now pending in Congress which would require that private employment agencies register with the Secretary of Labor and that their schedule of fees and other activities be regulated.

4. Recommended that states not yet having adequate legislation be strongly urged to enact laws which will prohibit industrial homework or provide for its gradual elimination through regulation.

5. Requested that regional conferences recently sponsored by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics in North Carolina and in Wisconsin be extended to all regions of the country to further the development of State labor statistics programs.

6. Urged that all states providing weekly maximum benefits under workman compensation laws increase such benefits to at least \$40 a week and that all states now providing full coverage of occupational diseases adopt such legislation. It further recommended the promotion and development of rehabilitation centers in each state.

Other resolutions endorsed and urged the passage of the Women's Status bill, now pending in Congress, which would establish a policy for the United States of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, both in provisions of law and in their administration; approved the establishment of a federal commission (or agency) on services for the physically handicapped and recommended the placement of this commission or agency in the Department of Labor; urged that all states compare their labor standards and procedures with the provisions of recent International Labor Organization conventions (treaties) and foster state action to bring such standards and procedures in line with the international labor standards.

The conference also recommended that state commissions of labor secure the active co-operation and advice of employers and labor organizations to assure an active program of apprenticeship in each state consistent with the national apprenticeship program conducted by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship now operating in 30 states and territories.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Tobin said, "By and large, we have better than held our own during the past year. That is

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