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NEW DEFENSE ACT FOR U. S. NO. 1 AFL TASK

Put On the Heat . . .!



UNION LABEL WEEK—SEPT. 2-8

Frank Edwards Says:

One For The Books . . .

It takes cotton to fire artillery shells . . . and the Chinese Communists in the last offensive used a surprising amount of artillery fire upon United Nations troops. Where did it come from?

In 1950, American cotton exporters sold the Chinese Reds \$23,000,000 worth of cotton. After Korea was invaded by the Communists, American cotton traders sold \$11,000,000 worth of cotton.

How many dollars worth of American cotton does it take to kill American, British, French, Turkish and Greek boys in Korea?

Help For The Aged . . .

The Federal Social Security Administration soon will announce its plan to provide 60 days free hospital care each year for those 65 years or over who are now receiving or are eligible for old age benefits.

Those old people—7 million of them—cannot buy hospitalization insurance at their age. The present Social Security Fund has a

surplus which can easily take care of them.

Miscellaneous Comments . . .

The House of Representatives, which scuttled the Public Housing Program, has passed a bill providing gold lapel buttons for families of service men killed in Korea.

These buttons will enable the families to look very distinguished as they search for a shack to live in.

Hats Off—Senator Benton

Congratulations to Senator Benton (D.) of Connecticut for trying to save some TV wave length for educational needs.

Senator Benton, though he made money in commercial advertising—or maybe because of it—is frankly skeptical about commercial stations meeting educational needs. It is his opinion that the radio networks are doing a poorer educational job than 20 years ago. He proposes a review board to check on both TV and radio to see that each is filling its responsibilities to the public.

Here is a table developed by Dr. Richard Murphy of the University of Illinois to determine how good a union meeting is:

?? WAS IT A GOOD UNION MEETING ??

(Check Yes or No)

	Yes	No
1. Did the meeting begin promptly?		
2. Did the meeting adjourn in reasonable time?		
3. Were all reports of officers, committees, etc. ready and presented in good order?		
4. Was an agenda followed?		
5. Were the Constitution, By-Laws, and rules of order followed?		
6. Were proposals for action put in specific motions?		
7. Did the discussion reflect the various opinions and interests of the members?		
8. Was there ENOUGH discussion to show what the membership really thought?		
9. Was the discussion good tempered?		
10. Could everybody hear what was said?		
11. Were the members interested in the proceedings?		
12. Was necessary business transacted?		
13. Were irrelevant matters excluded?		
14. When work had to be done outside the meeting, were committees or persons assigned to job?		
15. Was the meeting held together (no little groups here and there in the hall having their own meetings)?		
16. Did the presiding officer guard against "railroading"?		
17. Did the officers conduct the meeting with meaning and dignity?		
18. Was there an atmosphere of freedom—of give and take?		
19. Was your faith in your union strengthened by what went on at the meeting?		
20. Was I glad I came to meeting?		
Totals		

Look on last page to see what your score means.

Good Minimum Wage And Job Standards A Defense Necessity

Washington. — Good minimum wage programs can be of "invaluable aid" in attracting new recruits to the labor market, both in defense work and as replacements in the "unlucrative" but essential civilian services, Under Secretary of Labor Michael J. Galvin told State minimum wage administrators from all over the country.

The State officials met here May 24 and 25 at their annual conference under the auspices of the U. S. Labor Department's Women's bureau.

Galvin stressed that Wage Stabilization Board policies do not bar the efforts of States to obtain minimum wages "consistent with the basic purpose of State minimum wage laws—namely, living wages." Many State governments, he noted, are now "moving ahead energetically" to revise and issue minimum wage orders bringing the minimum wage closer into line with the current cost of living.

"There is, however, another area of State labor legislation for women where we feel that great vigilance is needed," Galvin warns. "I am referring to the attempts which are being made—supposedly as an aid to the defense effort—to relax or waive the employment standards which are contained in various laws which you are responsible for administering—notably these establishing maximum daily and weekly hours of work for women, specified meal and rest periods, and prohibiting night work."

To waive these standards, he said, would lead to lowered production.

WSB Okays 75 Cents Floor & Base Pay

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board announced that wage increases made after January 15, 1950, to comply with the 1949 amendments of the Fair Labor Standards Act, may be incorporated into a company's base period pay level for the purpose of computing allowable increases under General Wage Regulation 6. (The 10 per cent ceiling.)

Employers desiring to incorporate the Fair Labor Standards Act increases into their base period pay level must obtain advance approval of the board before making such a change. Such petitions may be disposed of by WSB Executive Director Robben W. Fleming.

WSB also announced a revision of General Wage Regulation 10 covering tandem wage adjustments.

Regulation 10, as originally issued March 8 by the Economic Stabilization Administrator, had limited tandem relationships to employ units in the same industry and labor market area. The amended regulation removes that limitation.

The board also altered the requirement that tandem increase had to follow in strict chronological order. The change requires only that the tandem adjustment be directly related" to the other.

TRAVELERS

During 1950 some 320,000 Americans went to Europe on an average two-month trip and spent \$235,000,000 for transportation, fun, food, sights and lodging, according to the Commerce Department. This was the second biggest traveling year for Americans. The biggest year was in 1929, when 350,000 Americans went to Europe, spending less, however—\$213,000,000.

Asks Labor Co-Operation



WILLIAM GREEN

27 States Aiding Small Business To Win Defense Production Role

COMMISSIONS FORMED, CO-OPERATE WITH DPA

Twenty-seven states have organized State Small Business Commissions or have delegated small business duties to an existing organization, in response to a request of the Defense Production Administration. Twelve more states have indicated their intention to form such commissions.

While policies and programs vary with the states, in general the commissions are directing their efforts to help small business in the following fields:

1. To convert to defense production.
2. To find new markets.
3. To explain and publicize the effect of federal controls and regulations.
4. To give leadership, assistance and support to all reasonable demands for scarce materials and supplies.
5. To aid in selling to federal agencies and their prime contractors.
6. To obtain prime and subcontracts for local manufacturers.
7. To conduct or encourage research for substitute materials.
8. To improve techniques and managerial factors.
9. To make available the technical knowledge and skill available within the state or from the federal government.
10. To review manpower requirements and wage price regulations.

Technical Sub-committees

Some commissions have organized statewide technical subcommittees which work closely with the Department of Commerce, Office of Technical Services.

Almost all the commissions are making an accurate, detailed inventory of plant facilities in their states, and are organizing, or have already organized, co-operating committees on the community level to work on these problems.

Most commissions are studying regulatory measures and orders of the Defense Production Administration, National Production Authority and other defense agencies to evaluate the impact of these regulations upon their local industries and trades. They are encouraged to make an immediate tie-in with the Department of Commerce field offices.

New Hampshire has organized a finance organization through which about 30 industrialists and bankers will provide venture capital for small business.

In Florida all major procurement centers have been contacted and small business clinics are being held throughout the state which consider problems in all fields of assistance. Several exhibits of subcontract items are also being staged. The Florida Commission follows through on

URGES UNIONS AND MEMBERS TO WRITE THEIR CONGRESSMEN BEFORE JULY 10 TO VOTE STRONG PRICE, RENT CONTROLS

WASHINGTON.—AFL President William Green called on AFL unions and their members to make enactment of a strong Defense Production Act their "chief topic of union business during the next 30 days."

Mr. Green urged the 8 million AFL members to write their congressmen before July 10 asking them to vote for a strong new law to replace the one expiring June 30.

"The issue involved in this fight is very simple," Mr. Green said in letters to officers of national and international unions, state federations of labor, Central and Federal Labor Unions.

"Are we or are we not going to have a comprehensive anti-inflation program that will carry out the principle of equality of sacrifice under the defense program? If the business and real estate lobbies have their way, the law will be so severely emasculated that the net result is likely to be strict controls over wages with only token controls over prices.

"Although the Defense Production Act may appear complicated and technical, it directly affects the lives and welfare of all American workers.

"To the worker earning \$50 a week, 5 per cent increase in prices is just the same as a wage reduction of 6 cents an hour, or \$2.50 a week."

Following is the text of the letter:

I am writing to ask you to designate the month from June 10 to July 10 as a period of intensive effort to support the campaign of the American Federation of Labor to strengthen the Defense Production act.

The Defense Production act became law on September 8, 1950. This is the basic law underlying our defense program. It provides the legal basis for both price control and wage stabilization. It includes authority for all credit controls, including Regulation X setting high down payments for the purchase of new housing.

This law is scheduled to expire on June 30, 1951. The Banking and Currency committees of both the House and Senate are now holding hearings regarding its extension. President Truman has recommended certain changes in the law, but the AFL, as well as other sections of organized labor, has made further recommendations to strengthen the law. On the other hand, the business and real estate interests are determined to scuttle the entire law or at least fill it with crippling amendments.

Because of the slow pace at which Congress works, it is very unlikely that a new law will be passed by June 30. Our best information is that Congress will vote a 15- or 30-day extension of the law in order to keep the act until a new law has been approved.

Thus the period during the next 30 days becomes critical. The issue involved in this fight is very simple. Are we or are we not going to have a comprehensive

anti-inflation program that will carry out the principle of equality of sacrifice under the defense program? If the business and real estate lobbies have their way, the law will be so severely emasculated that the net result is likely to be strict controls over wages with only token controls over prices.

If we are going to have a real anti-inflation program, the Defense Production act needs to be amended in the following ways:

1. More effective price controls over foods.
2. A strengthened rent control program.
3. More effective enforcement of price control.
4. Control over the quality of product is coming under price control.
5. Dollar - and - cents ceiling prices.
6. Change in requirements for handling credit restrictions on housing.

I am asking that you make this Defense Production act the chief topic of union business during the next 30 days. It is essential that local union meetings discuss the defense program and then take action by adopting resolutions. Most important of all, we must make Congressmen and Senators realize how important this issue is to all organized labor and to the American people. AFL unions and union members must write individual letters explaining their views on this issue.

The forces of reaction thrive on ignorance. They cannot succeed with their program if we are vigilant. Although the Defense Production act may appear complicated and technical, it directly affects the lives and welfare of all American workers. To the worker earning \$50 a week, 5 per cent increase in prices is just the same as a wage reduction of 6 cents an hour, or \$2.50 a week.

Please keep me informed of the progress of this campaign in your area. If you will arrange to send me copies of union correspondence sent to Congressmen and Senators, our legislative staff in Washington can utilize this material in their legislative work.

RUINS RECORD

Kankakee, Ill.—On the night that William Nolte, president of the local Lion's Club, was to honor Paul Sweeney for his perfect attendance for the year, Sweeney was absent.



VINTAGE . . . ! But where's the UNION LABEL?