

# Southern AFL Director Calls For Action By Our AFL Members On National Defense Legislation

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# RHODES URGES CONTACTING NC LAWMAKERS



J. L. RHODES,  
Southern AFL Director

**WANTS EFFECTIVE CONTROLS** — AFL President William Green told the House Banking Committee recently the Defense Production Act should be strengthened so as to give "truly effective" controls over food prices. Green also reminded the committee wage stabilization will have to be ended if price controls die. He called for dollar-and-cent price ceilings, stronger rent control and for policing the quality, as well as the cost, of goods.

### California Legislature Divides Districts Undemocratically To Hurt Workers

Here is a lesson for everyone who lives in a state that must be redistricted:

The California Legislature distrusts democracy and fears the people. It demonstrated its prejudice when it jammed through a Congressional reapportionment bill after a single meeting of the committee handling the matter. The measure was approved by Republican Gov. Earl Warren on May 11.

When a state reapportions, it rearranges its Congressional districts. These changes are made after each census. The last census was in 1950. Because of its increase in population since 1940 California will have 30 Congressmen beginning next year—seven more than it has now.

California's population is 10.5 million. So each 30 districts should have about 350,000 persons. Populations of all districts should be roughly the same. But the California Legislature, controlled by Republicans, is interested only in electing reactionary Republicans.

So the Legislature rearranged the districts to kill off 4 of the 10 pro-labor Democratic Congressmen now serving. The four are Frank Havenner, Clint McKinnon, Clyde Doyle and Chet Hollifield.

The Republicans fixed things not only to elect reactionaries to replace these liberals. They also have made the seven new Cali-

### Truman Hits Lobby, Tells Housing Needs

President Truman declares the real estate lobby is one of "the most powerful, far-flung and relentless lobbies this country has ever known."

"I hope the public meeting you have called will arouse the citizens of the largest city in the country and the entire nation to a realization of the danger which threatens us if the real estate lobby succeeds in killing public housing," Truman wired New York Mayor Vincent Impellitteri June 2.

"To satisfy their greed, they (the real estate lobby) would restore the old law of tooth and claw, and the defense workers would be their helpless victims."

In May the real estate lobby got the House to cut the public housing program for the year beginning July 1 from 75,000 to 5,000 units. The AFL believes 135,000 units should be built next year. The Senate Appropriations Committee, has recommended 50,000 units be constructed. The Senate still has to act on the public housing proposals.

### CONGRESS NEEDS TO TAKE ITS OWN ADVICE

From January 3 through May 31 the Senate was in session for 431 hours and 26 minutes, the House for 291 hours and 30 minutes—a total of 722 hours and 56 minutes.

In those five months only 43 public bills were enacted into law. That's an average of 16 hours and 48 minutes for each bill.

As our Congressmen keep telling us, what this country needs is more production.

Speaker of House Sam Rayburn (D. Texas) has served in Congress since 1913.

### Cards Are Against Small Businessmen

Like workers, small businessmen are getting the short end of the defense program stick.

"Since the outbreak of war in Korea evidence has been piling up daily that the economic cards are stacked against small manufacturers," Sen. John Sparkman (D. Ala.) said in the Senate, recently.

"Our mail is heavy with pleas of small business men for an even break in the mobilization program. We have a continuous stream of small businessmen who come to Washington to see us.

"They want no handout; they merely want fair treatment. After 11 months I know that many of my colleagues share my feeling that the defense agencies have failed in their efforts to aid small business.

"To literally thousands of small manufacturers it is as though the calendar had been turned back 10 years. They have not forgotten how, after Pearl Harbor, the managers of our war mobilization activities turned their back and said in effect, 'We don't need you.'"

### Present National Act Expires On July 31st

Do you want Congress to control the price of food, clothing, housing and the other necessary things you buy? If you do, write your Senators and Representatives and tell them so.

Do you want Congress to pass a tax bill that makes the rich pay their fair share of taxes? Then write your Senators and Representatives and tell them that.

Price Control and Tax Programs are in bad shape. Special privilege—led by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) — is running things on Capitol Hill.

If people like you and your Fellow Workers and Neighbors don't let Congressmen know how you feel about inflation, the entire Price Control and Tax Programs will collapse.

You don't have to write a long letter. Just a post card will do. Nor do you have to go into details. Simply tell your Senators and Representatives you want a Price Control Law that will do you some good. Explain how the high cost of living is hurting you.

Be sure to tell the Members of Congress to plug up the loopholes for the rich in the tax laws. Make it clear Working People are paying too much taxes already while the rich get richer.

There's not much time left. The Price and Rent Control Laws will die July 31. A new Tax Bill should have been passed two or three months ago.

So write those letters now. If people like you let Congress know how they feel about inflation and taxes, Congress will pass some good laws.

Here's where to send your letters to Senators and Representatives:

Letters to Senators should go to: Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Letters to Representatives should go to: House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

If you don't know the names of the two Senators from your State or the Representative from your district, call up the editor of your local newspaper. He can tell you.

The following telegram from J. L. Rhodes, Southern A. F. L. director of organization, calling upon all members of A. F. L. Unions throughout the South to contact their Senators and Representatives immediately, requesting that they vote for a controls and defense production act which will serve the interests of all the people, reads:

Atlanta, Ga., July 12, 1951

**Labor Journal**  
118 East Sixth Street  
P. O. Box 1061  
Charlotte, N. C.

(Special To The Charlotte Labor Journal)

Convey to the readers of your papers the urgency of contacting their Southern Senators and Congressmen, many of whom have chosen to vote with the isolationists Republicans who are out to destroy the price fixing legislation, at once in connection with the re-enactment of the National Production Act which expires July 31.

An unfriendly Congress threatens to permit inflation and run-away prices; an unfriendly Congress threatens to permit the profiteers to take over. Urge them to wire their Congressmen and Senators to support strong price fixing legislation to protect the housewives and consumers at home against unbelievably high prices for everyday needs.

**J. L. RHODES,**  
Southern Director of Organization,  
American Federation of Labor

### Unions Have Given \$9,000 More To Heart Fund, Tobin Reports

Four more of the Nation's major International Unions contributed \$9,000 to the 1951 Heart Fund of the American Heart Association, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, Chairman of the Association's National Labor Committee, announced.

The Secretary was presented in his office on June 4th with a \$1,000 gift for the Heart effort by Anthony Valente, President of the United Textile Workers of America, A. F. of L. Checks were also received from Harry C. Bates, President of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union of America, A. F. of L., for \$1,000, and from William L. Hutcheson, President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, A. F. of L., for \$3,000.

In reporting on these latest

gifts to the Heart Fund, Tobin said:

"The public-spiritedness of American Labor and its concern for the general welfare have been once again demonstrated by the generous response of these Unions to the appeal of the American Heart Association. Their gifts are evidence of the continuous support being furnished by Organized Labor to the fight against heart disease, which in 1949 claimed the lives of 727, Americans, or 51 per cent of all deaths."

Tobin pointed out that the 1951 Heart Fund drive through which the work of the American Heart Association is financed makes it possible to carry on a program of heart research, public education, rehabilitation of the cardiac in industry, and other community services such as work reclassification clinics.

**FOOD PRICE RISE**  
EATS UP DOLLARS

That dollar you spent for groceries in January, 1950, will buy only 86 cents worth of food today. And a weekly paycheck of \$70 in January, 1950, is worth only \$63 today.

Those two sentences explain in the simplest possible way what inflation has done to your pocket-book. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced the cost of living increased 10.5 per cent from January, 1950, to April 15, 1951, the last date for which figures are available. In that same period the cost of food went up 14.4 per cent.

When are prices going to show a little respect for the law of gravity? What goes up must come down.

### CAPITAL REPORTER Scott Summers

**RALEIGH**—The resignation of John Gold as Prisons' Director is a body blow to the rehabilitation of North Carolina's prison system.

It need not be a death blow—or a return to the corrupt practices of the past—if his successor is given a free hand to continue the work so ably launched by the former Winston-Salem police chief.

Gold has quit the tough prison job to return to Winston-Salem

as city manager. He was brought to Raleigh and the prisons job handed him with a pledge of "no politics" plus full support of the administration. That pledge has been kept.

But re-organization of the far-flung prison system, cleaning up of its personnel, launching of an educational and rehabilitation program, and allocation of more than a million dollars for prison building has taken a lot of \$4-

(Continued on Page 3)

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.