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## INFLATION TO BE THE BIG ISSUE IN 1952

### Uncle Sam Says



Defense is everybody's job! The priceless privilege of being an American cannot be bought—it must be worked for and sacrificed for whether in uniform or right here at home. Your purchase of U. S. Defense Bonds helps build your own independent future but beyond that you express faith in your country. That is one practical and certain way to help keep our national economy stable and to stand with all Americans for peace and security. Enroll now for the Payroll Savings Plan where you work, or the Bond-A-Month Plan at your bank. U. S. Treasury Department

### A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CONVAIR OFFICE WORKERS BEGINS JUNE 22



OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION PERIODIC INCREASES JOB SECURITY

Reading from left to right are the American Federation of Labor and Office Employees International Union Representatives who assisted in winning the largest Office Workers unit in the South at the Convair Plant in Fort Worth, Texas, for the Office Employees International Union: Elmer Dowell, A. F. of L. Organizer, Omaha, Nebraska; Harry Skaggs, A. F. of L. Organizer, St. Louis, Missouri; Lester Graham, Southwestern Director, A. F. of L., Fort Worth, Texas; T. L. Carlton, A. F. of L. Organizer, Tampa, Florida; J. M. Scott, A. F. of L. Organizer, Orange, Texas; Frank E. Morton, International Representative of Office Employees International Union; Phil B. Wells, A. F. of L. Organizer, Kansas City, Missouri.

The election was won by a large majority where 857 employees voted for the Office Employees International Union and 180 voted for No Union. Approximately 1450 clerical workers are included in this collective bargaining unit at the huge B-36 Plant.

### San Francisco Convention Call!

American Federation of Labor

To All Affiliated Unions, Greetings:

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the Seventieth Convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, California, at 10:00 o'clock Monday Morning, September 17, 1951, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the Convention shall have been completed.

During the days, weeks and months which have intervened since the adjournment of the 69th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, we have witnessed a clashing of ideologies and political philosophies here within our homeland and abroad as well. The question we must answer is—Shall our free, democratic way of life and form of government survive, or shall it all be supplanted by totalitarianism and governmental domination?

The facts show that America is now the last stronghold of the free enterprise system. Because we place such a high value upon the blessings of freedom, liberty and democracy, our membership will fight to maintain this priceless heritage and to prevent the infiltration of a totalitarian philosophy into the ranks of American labor.

Behold the picture. The advocates of a totalitarian philosophy are carrying on an aggressive campaign in every nation throughout the world for the purpose of substituting the Communist philosophy for the democratic form of government. For that reason we are living in a world of confusion and uncertainty. We can not see nor can we tell whether we are facing a Third World War with all its evil consequences and destructive effects.

The officers and delegates in attendance at the Seventieth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor must therefore face the facts. We must declare in positive terms our determination never to surrender but instead to fight more aggressively than ever and extend to our government full and complete assurance of our co-operation and support in any world fight which may be made for the preservation of liberty, freedom and democracy and in opposition to totalitarianism and communism.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### Wage Stabilization Commission For Building Industry Named

The Wage Stabilization Board, after consultation with Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, announced the membership of a 12-man commission established recently to administer wage stabilization in the building and construction industry.

The new commission, created under Federal Wage Regulation 12, adopted by the board on May 31, is composed of four public, four industry, and four labor representatives. Alternate members will be appointed later.

The commission will conform to the "regulations, policies, orders, and decisions" of the Wage Stabilization Board in stabilizing wage rates in the building and construction fields.

The Labor Department will be headquarters for the new commission. Department employees will be detailed to act as the commission's staff.

Members of the commission are: Public—Thomas J. Kallis, assistant solicitor, Department of Labor, and Archibald Sox, professor of law at the Harvard University law school, who will serve as co-chairman; Joseph Shister, of the Department of Economics at the University of Buffalo; Russell E. Cooley, labor adviser to the chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Department of Defense.

Labor—Richard J. Gray, president, AFL Building and Construction Trades Department; D. W. Tracy, president AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; O. William Blaier, board member, AFL United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; and John W. Garvey, assistant to the general president, AFL International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union. Tracy, former assistant secretary of Labor, served as chairman of the World War II wage adjustment board.

Industry—James D. Marshall, assistant managing director of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.; Everett W. Dunn, consulting engineer and labor consultant of Hartley, Iowa; H. R. Cole, executive secretary of the Tile Contractors' association; and William J. Cour, of the National Electrical Contractors' association.

### Defense Work Just Started; Causes Great Inflation Threat

The real defense program is just getting underway.

That's why we need a stronger and tighter Defense Production act on prices and rents to replace the law expiring July 31 if we are to lick inflation.

AFL President William Green outlined it to Congress this way: "The Defense Production Act became law on September 8, 1950. It was designed as the basic law governing our economy during this defense program.

"But let's not fool ourselves about one fact; the real defense program is just now getting underway. We know that the Congress has authorized the expenditure of many billions of dollars to build up and equip our armed forces, to stockpile strategic raw materials, and to place this country in a state of readiness for any eventuality.

"The facts are, however, that there is always a considerable time lag between authorizing the expenditure and the actual spending of the allotted funds. It has been only recently that the funds authorized by Congress have actually started to find their way into our economy in substantial amounts.

"This flow of funds has been steadily increasing during the past few months and will continue to increase until our defense program will be absorbing 20 per cent of our entire national effort.

"That is why in considering the Defense Production act, we cannot merely think of the present. We must think of the future, of the period of time during which this legislation will be effective. The Office of Defense Mobilization estimates that the "maximum pro-

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.

### Green Says DPA Is Bill Shy On Rents And Prices

AFL President Green told all members of the Senate in a letter that the Defense Production Act submitted by their Banking and Currency Committee "simply cannot do the job of controlling prices and rents.

He cited four important shortcomings:

"The bill reported by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee simply cannot do the job. We are much disturbed by the committee action because we feel they have made the fight against the inflation extremely difficult, if not impossible. In particular, I want to call your attention to the following ways in which the committee bill needs to be strengthened:

"1. Section 2. Prohibition of price rollbacks. This section cuts out the heart of the price control program. The cancellation of the beef price rollback is completely unjustified in view of the fact that even after the October 1 rollback, beef prices will still be at 125 per cent of the parity level. If rollbacks are outlawed, the net result can only be such gross inequities that the general price level will have to be rolled forward, thus adding fuel to the fire of inflation.

"2. Subsidy program. Since purchases of food form the largest single item in the family's budget, we are very much concerned that the committee has taken no action which would stabilize food prices. Only about one-third of food purchases are now under any sort of control regulation. The American Federation of Labor urges that the President be given authority to embark upon a program of food subsidies to be applied only to prevent necessary price increases on farm products which are below 100 per cent of parity from being reflected in increased prices at the grocery store.

"3. Effective enforcement of price control. We urge enactment of the President's proposals for strengthening the enforcement of price control. What is the use of price control regulations unless they can be effectively enforced? We believe that granting authority to the President for the issuing of licenses in particular industries where enforcement is difficult is a well considered proposal. Necessary safeguards are included to prevent any possible abuse of this authority.

"4. Rent control. While the committee's recommendations would strengthen the existing rent control program in some respects, we believe that the blanket 20 per cent increase contained in the bill is entirely unwarranted. We support the President's original proposal on rent control which would permit increase in rents where there have been genuine increases in landlords' costs. In addition, we oppose the so-called "local option" provision which permits communities to remove themselves from rent control. Such local autonomy in the rent control law is no more justified than it would be in the price control and wage stabilization programs.

duction impact" of the defense program will fall "early in 1952."

"Decisions concerned with this legislation cannot be governed by any complacency that the program is now running smoothly, that inflation is being held in check, or that price increases have been halted."

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

Price controls are going to be a big issue from now until Election Day on November 4, 1952. So it's important that you know the details of the price control legislation Congress is writing.

An analysis of the price control bill passed by the Senate June 29 after a week's debate shows how Congress is falling down on its job of controlling inflation.

New price control legislation won't become law before August 1. But the law on which Congress finally agrees probably will be pretty much like the Senate bill.

Here, in simple words, are the details of the phony price control bill the Senate passed. When you read these facts about this measure, you will see why it merely legalizes, instead of controls, inflation.

**Roll-backs**

To control inflation you must be able to roll back some prices. That's because so many profiteers jacked up their prices. If you don't roll back the profiteers' prices, all other prices soon will get to profiteering levels.

Both the Senate and the House have voted to prohibit the Office of Price Stabilization (OPS) from rolling back any prices. This action, said Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston in a letter June 26 to Senate Democratic Leader Ernest McFarland (Ariz.), will add \$10 billion to \$12 billion a year to the present cost level, which is already \$20 billion higher than before Korea.

OPS was planning roll backs on July 2 that would have saved the American people, according to Sen. Paul Douglas (D., Ill.), "at least \$5 billion." Douglas told the Senate June 27 these roll-backs would have reduced building materials prices by \$1 billion; chemicals by \$300 million; electrical equipment, \$200 million, and rubber, \$150 million.

**Rent Control**

The Federal government should be able to control all rents, if necessary. Local-option rent control makes no more sense than price controls administered by cities or states. Piecemeal operations won't control the cost of living.

Yet the Senate has voted to allow rent increases up to 20 per cent above 1947 levels. The Senate also says it's all right for city councils and state legislatures to end all rent controls in their cities or states.

**Meat Price Controls**

Meat is a key item in the cost of living. It takes the biggest chunk out of most people's grocery bills. What has the Senate done about the high price of meat? It has virtually decontrolled meat.

The meat price rollbacks, set for August 1 and October 1, which would have saved consumers at least \$700 million a year, have been killed by the Senate. Meat prices have been "stabilized" at their highest levels in history—the prices of last January 25-February 24.

What's more, the Senate prohibited strong enforcement of even these outrageous "controls." By assigning slaughtering quotas to meat packers, the OPS planned to keep track of all meat. But the Senate banned such quotas. The House followed suit, 200-112, July 10.

Finally, the Senate guaranteed huge profits to the big meat packers. Most businessmen make money on some items and lose money on others. By the end of the year the losses and gains balance. But the Senate says meat packers must make a profit on every piece of meat they sell.

**Food Gamblers**

One of the big reasons food costs so much is the food speculators—nice word for gamblers. These gamblers go into the commodity markets in New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis and elsewhere and bid up the prices of wheat, corn, soy beans,

butter, sugar and other things you eat. The Senate told these gamblers to go their merry way.

"It seems to us wrong that while a workingman must make a third down payment on an essential automobile, a grain speculator need only make a 7 per cent down payment in order to speculate in rye futures," said Democratic Senators Paul Douglas (Ill.), William Benton (Conn.) and Blair Moody (Mich.) in a statement to the Senate June 22.

**Subsidies**

During World War II prices of many foods were kept low by subsidies. The government paid the difference to the farmer between what he needed to make a decent profit and what it felt was the most the consumer should be charged. The Senate turned down even a limited subsidy program.

**Quality Controls**

Price controls don't mean much unless the quality of food or shirts is maintained. For instance, a manufacturer will make shirts

**TOO MUCH PRESSURE**

Lobbyists wrote the weak price controls bill passed by the Senate June 29. The New York Times reported July 1:

"Lobbyists for various business groups and farmers were applying strong pressures against controls.

"A dozen real estate, beef and textile lobbyists sat in the Senate reception room through the long night session to confer with Senators.

at a controlled price but he will skim on the material he puts into that shirt. The Senate shut his eyes to quality controls.

**Enforcement**

During the last war all businesses received license as a matter of right. When a businessman violated the price control laws, his license was taken away from him. That's a good way to enforce price controls. But the Senate would have none of it.

Under present laws maximum penalties for violating price control laws amount to three times the price of an overcharge plus \$10,000. Such penalties are chicken feed to a big operator. The penalties should have been increased. But the Senate said: No!

**Defense Plants**

The Senate has voted to force the government to build defense plants on the most expensive terms possible. Those terms involve tax handouts.

To get businessmen to build needed plants the government offers them special tax favors on new plants. This means lower taxes for Big Business and higher taxes for the rest of the people—meaning you.

**YATES CALLS FOR BETTER COVERAGE FOR ELDERLY FOLK**

"We must not delude ourselves that we solved the problems of the aged by these 1950 improvements in our social security system, for it is still inadequate."

That's what Democratic Rep. Sid Yates of Chicago told Members of the House June 4 when he asked them to set up a special Committee on Problems of the Aging.

"We will not have reached our goal until we have achieved universal coverage and benefits which provide the major part of retirement income for most workers."

"Moreover . . . the system of total and permanent disability insurance, which the House bill contained, was struck out by the Senate and not enacted into law.

"The result is that thousands of workers prematurely retired from their jobs by an expensive and totally disabling accident or illness are not eligible for benefits until they reach age 65, regardless of their need or of the contribution they have made through the payroll tax."