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AFL Ready To Negotiate An Agreement With CIO On Unity

Washington, (ILNS) — AFL President William Green has formally invited the CIO to resume negotiations "looking to an early consummation of organic unity" between the two organizations.

In a letter to CIO President Philip Murray, Green conveyed the official action of the recent AFL convention in San Francisco in favor of a single, united labor movement and declared that a committee representing the federation "stands ready to meet and negotiate" an agreement with a committee representing the CIO providing for a merger.

Green's letter directed attention to a copy of the AFL convention declaration he enclosed and went on to say:

"It is stated in this declaration, 'the need for a united labor movement in America is evident to all trade unionists and progressive minded citizens in our country. The need is urgent. There can be no substitute for organic unity.'

"The promotion of the economic, social and industrial interests of the workers of the nation is a matter of primary and uncompromising concern to every loyal leader in the organized labor movement. These interests of the workers, their economic, social and industrial welfare, should overshadow all other considerations by the officers and leaders of labor organizations. Surely time and experience have shown that these interests of the men and women who work for wages can best be promoted through the establishment of labor unity, the elimination of divided and dual organizations and the establishment instead of one strong, united, progressive fighting union.

"In the declaration adopted by the San Francisco convention it is stated, 'we, therefore urge a revival of negotiations with the CIO looking to an early consummation of organic unity between these two organizations.'

"I earnestly hope this suggestion can be carried out—that this decision of the AFL San Francisco convention can be made effective and a resumption of negotiations between representatives of

the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor may be brought about for the purpose of promoting and creating organic unity within the membership of our divided organizations.

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"A committee representing the AFL stands ready to meet and negotiate with a committee representing the CIO for the purpose of negotiating an agreement providing for the termination of division and the establishment of organic unity.

In his annual report to the CIO convention opening in New York Nov. 5, President Murray said that organic unity with the AFL is impossible "on the only terms which the AFL leaders are apparently ready to offer." He charged that the AFL, by quitting the United Labor Policy Committee, destroyed "the most hopeful display of labor unity this nation has ever seen." Murray followed up these statements by telling the convention in his keynote address that the AFL's purpose was to "absorb and swallow" the CIO.

SPECIAL PERMISSION IS NECESSARY TO MOVE OVERSIZE VEHICLES

Raleigh.—Motor Vehicles Commissioner L. C. Rosser reminds motorists that they must get special permission from the Highway department before moving oversize vehicles on State roadways. Offenders will face arrest by the Highway Patrol, he said.

Rosser voiced his precaution on the basis of a recent news story relating an incident where nine persons were killed when a projecting bull dozer blade slashed through a passing bus.

AFL Asks Wage Boosts For Increased Efficiency

Washington, (ILNS) — A national wage policy under which wage and salary increases would be permitted for increased efficiency and production has been proposed by the American Federation of Labor members of the Wage Stabilization Board.

This policy, the AFL said in its Labor's Monthly Survey, can give workers "a chance to advance their wages without causing a new inflation spiral, thus accomplishing the real purpose of wage stabilization."

The AFL cautioned that "by improving efficiency we do not mean a pernicious 'speed-up' with increased work loads. That would impair, not increase, real efficiency."

Pointing out that production is steadily being improved by new machinery, better methods, improved processes, the federation said, "workers can contribute greatly by giving their ideas and finding short-cuts and better ways to do things. For workers alone have the detailed know-how for their jobs."

Outlining the proposal the AFL said that when workers turn out work more efficiently, using new machines and methods, "they rightly expect to share in the results of this increased production." It said the Wage Stabilization Board had thus far given only partial recognition to the

accepted practice of sharing with workers the results of increased efficiency and continued:

"Consequently, many workers are unfairly penalized and do not justly help to create. When efficiency increases, wage gains are earned and such gains do not cause price rises.

"This policy will encourage workers to co-operate wholeheartedly in efforts to improve efficiency, cut costs and raise productivity, which are so vital to the defense program. By sharing the gains that result, they can earn wage increases, and can also know that such wage gains will not force price rises.

"To permit this type of wage increase now will right a wrong. It will restore to workers their share in the income they help to create, which is now denied them. Also it will give them a chance to solve their wage problems without breaking price ceilings. This is the way impending wage demands can be constructively met."

The federation survey recalled that sharing of gains in accordance with efficiency increases "has been basic AFL wage policy since it was adopted by the 1925 convention." It added that "for more than a century, increasing efficiency in American industry generally has been the basis for a steady rise in wages and living standards."



ECONOMIC PINCH DUE IN 1952

The stiffest pinch in the U. S. economy, being caused by the rearmament program, is due to be felt in 1952—the election year. While large sums have been appropriated by Congress this year, and in 1950, the job of rearming is one which requires considerable time and the impact is not felt until after defense plants get into full production, using large quantities of raw materials.

Various evidences have already been felt. Automobiles have been slowed on the production lines. Aluminum is in scarce supply, and other shortages are developing. But the rearmament effort in 1950 and part of this year has been one which included a major retooling job. Many defense plants are just getting into quantity production, after hurried retooling. They will consume far greater amounts of materials, next year than they did this or last year.

In addition, the armed forces are increasing slowly, as well as benefit payments which add to the inflationary effect. And as greater quantities of defense weapons are produced, more money is poured into private channels, which is also inflationary. Finance experts in Washington say the real pinch of the rearmament program will begin to be felt next spring. Scarcities that hurt may appear in several fields at that time.

This economic picture could have a bearing on the presidential election. If inflation is held down, and times are relatively good, it may aid the Democrats. If inflation and shortages are serious, it will be an asset to the Republican side.

OFF-SHORE PROCUREMENT NOT POPULAR

One of the major problems facing a majority of American aid officials in Europe today is the question of using U. S. foreign aid funds to purchase European-manufactured weapons for the general rearmament of North Atlantic Treaty countries. Heretofore most U. S. money has gone to purchase U. S. manufactured weapons for these countries. Business men have argued that U. S. tax dollars should rightly be spent in this country for the rearmament of all foreign countries.

However, some weapons used in the various countries are not made in the United States and standardization of weapons among the NATO countries seems too long off at present. In addition, there is the problem of production, now getting acute as more European countries embark on major rearmament plans. Many ECA, military aid mission and diplomatic officials abroad frankly feel that the United States should put its dollars where they will buy the most and buy it quickest. On the other hand, there are some who say that U. S. funds should not be plowed into foreign armament industries.

The Production Board of NATO in London is today faced with a critical problem of finding enough equipment to supply forces envisioned under current rearmament plans in France, Italy, and other NATO powers and in Greece, Turkey and perhaps Yugoslavia, the latter three not presently in NATO.

Top members on the Production Board admit that if the equipment schedule is met, it will have to be done through development of European production, as well as full U. S. production. They say further that U. S. money will have to be spent by ECA to rebuild some factories in Europe which can produce needed armaments. This raises the objection of some that U. S. money will be used to rebuild the plants, then used to give the plants orders, and that in the end the U. S. will get nothing out of it—except expedited armament production in Europe today. It also raises the same old objec-

tions that have bobbed up before about the special interests in many European countries, which will stand to gain most of the profits from the reconstruction of these plants—owned by wealthy and monopolistic families and groups in many cases.

The problem is a big one and it is being called the problem of off-shore procurement, which means the purchase of armaments beyond the shores of the United States. Some U. S. officials abroad who advocate the off-shore procurement plan realize that Congressmen and Senators in Washington who must vote the money for this program are likely to be put on the hot seat by business men in the United States if they support a large off-shore procurement program. Likewise, they say, General Eisenhower's mobilization plans will be in for a rude failure if some off-shore procurement program isn't pushed with vigor.

Military aid mission officials seem generally agreed some program of this sort is necessary if the NATO countries are going to meet the mobilization and rearmament goals General Eisenhower is urging. Some admit caution will be necessary in the selection of plants to be aided by ECA, and those to be given large defense contracts. Aid officials in Greece have helped that country's defense program greatly by restoring factories and stabilizing the country's economy. In Turkey U. S. dollars have built ordnance shops and have been used to keep defense plants going, until they could stand on their own feet, in addition to the more generally appreciated function of buying U. S. equipment for the Turkish army.

In Greece and Turkey most Americans believe the limited amount of off-shore procurement (which has been infinitesimal), the development and construction of defense plants, and other related programs have been successful. The larger program being talked in London today, to affect many countries, may or may not be a different kettle of fish. Chances seem to be that some sort of enlarged program will be undertaken, and that protests will come from some quarters in the U. S.

UNPREPAREDNESS RISKS OUR FREEDOM

Early in 1952, the United States will be called upon to approve the report of a civilian commission, which recently recommended a program for the development of universal military training at the earliest practicable moment.

There will be considerable debate about the issue, with many people fighting the phrase, universal military training, rather than the suggested program, which, upon study, is rather limited and lacks a great deal of being what the title suggests.

The United States has gone into two world wars in a state of ghastly unpreparedness and, despite the losses that this condition entailed, reduced its armed strength to military impotence almost immediately upon the cessation of hostilities. The proposed plan is an effort to assure that this country will have a minimum body of experienced soldiers, ready for an emergency. While it is somewhat limited in its present scope, the presumption is that as the present manpower shortage relaxes, the regular and orderly training of all young men will be expanded.

Universal military training, according to General of the Army George C. Marshall, will be "a greater deterrent to possible aggressors or murderers of world peace than even the atomic power, now in a rapid state of development." Because the threat of war will prevail for many years, the former Secretary of State thinks that, "to be unprepared these days would be a tragic risk of our freedom." He wants a program of military training that will be "reasonably secure against sudden fluctuations of public opinion."

European craftsmen the opportunity to learn some of our production know-how and at the same time expose more of them to our concepts of freedom."

Unfortunately, the speaker did not develop the plan beyond the limits of his own industry. Some similar ideas were advanced recently by a group of eastern labor editors who suggested that ECA, the State Department and other federal agencies, in filling labor information posts abroad, give "greater consideration to competent members of the bona fide labor press, who combine journalistic skills with years of association with and knowledge of

NEWS AND VIEWS

BY ALEXANDER S. LIPSETT
(An ILNS Feature)

"Is this not the time to ask ourselves precisely what is our foreign policy and by what methods can we constantly improve our representations abroad?" asks a reader. I think there is a half-way answer to that. It lies in the shaping of American foreign policy and in the carrying out of our commitments abroad.

Some time ago the issue was squarely presented to the 50th jubilee convention of the AFL International Photo-Engravers Un-

ion by Edward Nygaard, a union vice president and deputy industrial commissioner of New York State. Referring to visits of European trade unionists to America under ECA auspices, which, he said, gave them the opportunity of observing the United States first-hand, Nygaard proposed a system whereby hundreds of American unionists would visit Europe each year.

"Not only will this plan permit our members to learn some of the quality methods that English and European craftsmen have developed but it will also give more

Labor Forced Into Politics To Combat Anti-Union Legislation

October Sees Wage Increases In South

About 250 wage settlements, covering approximately 125,000 workers in the South, were reviewed during the past month, according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Southern Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of workers affected was slightly less than last month, although the number of settlements totaled about 40 per cent more. Generally speaking, the amounts of the increases were larger with raises of over 10 cents per hour accounting for almost twice as many cases this month in comparison with last month.

About 70 per cent of the October settlements involved wage increases only; almost 30 per cent included both wage and fringe benefits; and about two per cent provided for additional fringe benefits only. As usual, very few agreements were extended with no change in wages or supplementary benefits.

Wage increases of 5 cents to 10 cents an hour accounted for approximately 50 per cent of the changes. Increases of over 10 cents to 20 cents an hour inclusive accounted for 25 per cent, while increases of less than 5 cents were granted in about 15 per cent of the settlements. Eight per cent of the changes were for over 20 cents an hour. No attempt has been made to determine whether these changes are permissible under existing Wage Stabilization Board regulations, but over 10 per cent of these settlements are known to require WSB approval.

The greatest wage change activity during this period occurred in chemicals, clay, stone and glass products, government (non-federal), paper and metal products. Several thousand chemical workers received increases ranging from 4 to 8 cents. A standardized arrangement was made in the southern paper industry providing for about 8 cents an hour and fringe benefits for almost 15,000 employees. Several hundred clay, stone and glass workers received paid holidays and a vacation plan in addition to a 3 cents across the board wage increase. At least 15,000 metal products workers received increases ranging from 3 cents to 12.4 cents per hour. Most of these metalworking agreements included some fringe benefits.

Salary or wage increases for State, county, and municipal employes accounted for about 20 per cent of all changes during October. Most of these actions were by small municipalities who granted raises to their firemen, policemen, and other employes. Some of the actions covering a large number of employes involved county and city school teachers. The amounts granted to police and firemen varied, with \$15 per month being average. About \$200 per year was a typical raise given teachers.

Information was compiled from direct reports, newspapers, union and trade journals and other sources.

Washington.—(ILNS) — American labor is not attempting to control the government or establish a political party, James L. McDevitt, new director of Labor's League for Political Education said in the November issue of the American Federationist, official AFL magazine.

After referring to the league work in getting out the vote and in directing the attention of Mr. and Mrs. Citizen to vital issues in the field of economics and politics, McDevitt wrote:

"There has been much said in the press of our nation during recent years about labor's participation in the political scheme of things. Some editorial writers have gone so far as to state that the American labor movement is 'attempting to control our government.'

"Such statements are, of course, most ridiculous, but it seems to me that we are compelled to comment when statements of this kind are made. We must call the attention of the American people once again to the objectives stated by the founders of Labor's League when it was formed at San Francisco four years ago.

"We said then and we say again that, because of the tremendous campaigns waged by the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce to bring about the adoption of legislation designed to curtail, if not destroy, the rights of American Workers, we were forced to enter the field of political education to prevent the adoption of any further anti-labor legislation and to work effectively for the removal of anti-labor statutes already enacted.

"We do not seek to establish a political party. We do intend to work—night and day if necessary—in behalf of candidates for public office, more particularly those seeking legislative positions, supporting those who can be depended upon to vote in accordance with their own honest conscientious convictions. At the same time we shall work for the defeat of those who are the exclusive representatives of the forces of reaction."

In conclusion, the LLPE director said:

"We have said that we did not relish the idea of getting into the political ring, but circumstances left us no choice. Working people now find themselves hobbled and shackled. There is hardly anything left in the way of laws protecting labor's rights to free collective bargaining and, strange as this may seem to some of our people, it is nevertheless a fact that there is now no other segment of our American society that has had such restrictive regulations imposed on it.

"I am confident that future political campaigns will find a greater interest being shown by the nation's working people and that eventually, and in the not too distant future, we will be able to record a rather constructive achievement in bringing about our real objective, namely, the return of our Constitutional rights as we understand and see them."

But IF YOU HAVE AN INJURY ACCIDENT, THE CHANCES OF SOMEONE BEING KILLED ARE

AT A CONSTANT SPEED OF	YOU CAN DRIVE 400 MILES IN	1 in 16
45 m.p.h.	8 hrs. 54 min.	1 in 16
55 m.p.h.	7 hrs. 18 min.	1 in 12
65 m.p.h.	6 hrs. 10 min.	1 in 6

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

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