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ACTION OF CONGRESS CLIPS WSB POWERS

Senate Group Approves Bill On Primaries

A bill to encourage wider use of Presidential primaries by underwriting their costs with federal funds was approved by the Senate Rules Committee. It is doubtful whether there will be time for action by the Senate and House unless Congress returns to work after the political conventions.

The bill provides that the Federal government would reimburse the States at the rate of 20 cents for each vote cast toward the cost of conducting the primary elections. The committee estimated that the cost probably would amount to \$1.9 million on the basis of 9.5 million voters.

States would be permitted to regulate the elections as they saw fit. They would decide, for instance, whether election results would be binding on delegates to the national nominating conventions.

States would agree to include on the primary ballot all Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates certified by the U. S. Attorney General as aspirants for the nomination of a political party that received at least 10 million votes in the last general election. Primaries would be held between February 1 and May 31.

The measure is a revised version of a bill introduced by Sen. Paul Douglas (D., Ill.). Said Douglas:

"The 60 million 'voteless' citizens of our nonprimary States are demanding their rightful say in the nomination of their party's Presidential nominee."

CITY ELECTRICIANS WIN INDUSTRY SCALE

St. Louis.—A 2-day work stoppage by 120 city electricians and helpers, members of the AFL Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, ended with acceptance of proposals by the Civil Service Commission to bring their hourly wages up to scales prevailing in private industry.

They had objected to a pending wage bill which proposed a flat 3.7 per cent increase in pay for all city workers under civil service, contending they needed 9 per cent to bring their rate up to private industry levels.

AFL Convention Calendar

(Following is a list of conventions scheduled for the remainder of this year by National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor.)

Date, 1952	Organization	Place
July*	Radio & Television Directors Guild	New York City
July 14	Intl. Brotherhood of Bookbinders	St. Louis, Mo.
July 14	New York State Federation of Labor	Rochester, N. Y.
July 14	Washington State Fed. of Labor	Tacoma, Wash.
Aug. 4	Intl. Alliance of Theatrical, etc.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Aug. 11	Massachusetts State Fed. of Labor	Boston, Mass.
Aug. 11	North Carolina State Fed. of Labor	Durham, N. C.
Aug. 11	Intl. Assn. of Fire Fighters	Seattle, Wash.
Aug. 11	United Garment Workers of America	Minneapolis, Minn.
Aug. 11	Ohio State Federation of Labor	Cincinnati, Ohio
Aug. 12	Women's Intl. Union Label League	Youngstown, Ohio
Aug. 16	International Typographical Union	Cincinnati, Ohio
Aug.*	Nevada State Federation of Labor	Las Vegas, Nev.
Aug. 18	Wisconsin State Fed. of Labor	Wausau, Wis.
Aug. 18	Utah State Federation of Labor	Salt Lake City, U.
Aug. 18	Trades and Labor Cong. of Canada	Winnipeg, Can.
Aug. 18	American Federation of Teachers	4 Syracuse, N. Y.
Aug. 18	The Natl. Assn. Special Del., etc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Aug. 18	Bro. of Railroad Signalmen of Amer.	Los Angeles, Calif.
Aug. 18	Intl. Photo Engravers Union of N. A.	Cleveland, Ohio
Aug. 18	Natl. Fed. of Post Office Clerks	St. Paul, Minn.
Aug. 19	Montana State Federation of Labor	Missoula, Mont.
Aug. 25	California State Federation of Labor	Santa Barbara, Cal.
Aug. 25	Amer. Fed. of Government Employees	San Francisco, Cal.
Aug. 31	North Dakota State Fed. of Labor	Grand Forks, N. D.
Sept. 1	Natl. Association Letter Carriers	New York, N. Y.
Sept. 2	Intl. Assn. Heat and Frost, etc.	Los Angeles, Calif.
Sept. 8	Metal Trades Department	New York, N. Y.
Sept. 8	Intl. Stereotypers and Elec., etc.	Atlantic City, N. J.
Sept. 8	International Union Chemical Workers	Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 9	Indiana State Federation of Labor	Evansville, Ind.
Sept. 10	Building and Construction Trades	New York City
Sept. 12	Union Label Trades Department	New York City
Sept. 13	American Wire Weavers Pro. Assn.	New York City
Sept. 15	Intl. Alliance of Bill Posters, etc.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Sept. 15	Cigarmakers' Intl. Union of America	New York City
Sept. 15	Intl. Association of Machinists	Kansas City, Mo.
Sept. 15	Railway Patrolmen's Int. Union	New York City
Sept. 15	Tobacco Workers Int. Union	Rochester, N. Y.
Sept. 20	New Hampshire State Fed. of Labor	Keene, N. H.
Sept. 21	Natl. Assn. Postal Supervisors	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Oct. 2	Wyoming State Fed. of Labor	Casper, Wyo.
Oct. 2	West Virginia State Fed. of Labor	Wheeling, W. Va.
Oct. 2	Air Line Dispatchers Assn.	Chicago, Ill.
Oct. 6	Minnesota State Fed. of Labor	Minneapolis, Minn.
Oct. 6	Mississippi State Fed. of Labor	Meridian, Miss.
Oct. 6	Kentucky State Fed. of Labor	Owensboro, Ky.
Oct. 9	New Mexico State Fed. of Labor	Roswell, N. Mex.
Oct. 9	Oklahoma State Fed. of Labor	Bartlesville, Okla.
Oct. 13	Intl. Union of Lathers, Wood, etc.	Houston, Tex.
Oct. 13	Illinois State Federation of Labor	Peoria, Ill.
Oct. 13	Intl. Bro. of Teamsters, Chauff., etc.	Los Angeles, Calif.
Oct. 14	Connecticut State Fed. of Labor	Undecided
Oct. 19	Commercial Telegraphers Union	Vancouver, B. C.
Oct. 20	United Cement, Lime and Gypsum, etc.	Long Beach, Calif.
Oct. 20	Air Line Pilots Association	Chicago, Ill.
Oct. 27	Bricklayers Masons and Plasterers	Minneapolis, Minn.
Oct. 27	Intl. Assn. Bridge and Structural, etc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Nov.*	Natl. Assn. Master Mechanics, etc.	Washington, D. C.
Nov. 10	American Fed. of Grain, Millers	Buffalo, N. Y.
Nov.*	Florida State Federation of Labor	Orlando, Fla.

* Date not definitely set.

Republicans Offered Progressive Plan

CHICAGO.—The AFL offered a "natural" to the Republican National Convention—11 progressive platform planks that could bridge the party's 20-year gap of political failure to victory in November.

But while the GOP Resolutions Committee members accorded an outwardly cordial reception to AFL President William Green, they showed little inclination to follow the constructive policies he recommended.

Sensing this negative attitude, the AFL leader sternly warned: "No political party can survive in America which stands still or faces backward. Let the Republican party look forward. Let it forge an affirmative, progressive program. That is the only way it can once again attract the support and allegiance of the great masses of American voters."

Backed up by a special Executive Council Committee—consisting of Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, and Vice Presidents Matthew Woll and Charles J. MacGowan—Mr. Green presented to the Republican platform makers these major planks:

1. Replacement of the Taft-Hartley Act, which has been "a complete failure" with a new labor relations law that will be workable and fair to labor and employers.
2. Enactment of an effective stabilization program, including tight price controls and a tripartite Wage Stabilization Board with full power to deal with all disputes.
3. A strong and united foreign policy, backed up by a powerful defense program and full assistance to allied free nations.
4. A billion-dollar program of federal aid to education, financed by federal revenues from offshore oil.
5. A comprehensive housing program, including home construction in defense areas, low-cost housing for those with moderate incomes and low-rent public housing for slum dwellers.
6. A fair tax program, with loopholes closed, limitations on excess profits and reduction of excise taxes and income taxes on those in low brackets as soon as the defense emergency abates.
7. Liberalization of social security benefits, enactment of disability benefits, inauguration of health insurance and coverage for public employees who wish it.

8. A realistic minimum wage of \$1 an hour.

9. More authority and funds for the Labor Department.

10. Enactment of a Fair Employment Practices Law.

11. Legislation assuring better treatment of Federal government employees.

Without mentioning Sen. Robert A. Taft by name, Mr. Green warned the Republican convention against the Senator's strategy in Congress of collaboration with the Dixiecrats.

The AFL spokesman said: "Too often in the past 10 years, the Republican members of Congress have allied themselves with the Dixiecrats to stifle progressive legislation. Such an alliance will prove fatal to our present 2-party system and fatal to the Republican party's hopes of victory. The Dixiecrats are a vanishing race, decadent, moribund, and paralyzed by their own prejudices."

TRUMAN ORDERS EXEMPTION FOR INDUSTRY APPRENTICES

President Truman ended discrimination against young workers by ordering the Selective Service System to exempt industrial apprentices temporarily from the draft.

Although large numbers of college students are deferred from induction into the armed services, young men who are learning skills in industry had not been similarly exempted.

The President's action, in effect, approved recommendations made by President James Brownlow of the AFL Metal Trades Department to the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship.

Mr. Truman pointed out that his order does not permit exemption of just any worker from selective service. Rather, he said, it provides a "more orderly basis for granting temporary deferments which local boards have customarily extended qualified individuals."

At the same time, the President acted to defer farm workers in order to maintain necessary food production. He pointed out that 6 million workers left farms in the last four years for military services and industrial jobs.

Maj. Gen. Lewis Hershaw, Selective Service director, supplemented Mr. Truman's order with regulations which the President said will "provide an orderly flow of machinists, mechanics and

DIVIDENDS UP 10 PER CENT

Dividends of corporations issuing public reports jumped 10 per cent in May over the amount paid out in May 1951, the Commerce Department reported.

For the first 5 months of 1952, cash dividends increased 6 per cent over the total in the same period of last year.

Both manufacturing and non-manufacturing groups increased their dividends, with the non-manufacturing firms paying out 25 per cent more in the January-May period 1952 than during the same months of 1951.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

When shopping always look for the union label. It tells you that you are getting a good product carefully made by union men and

other skilled workers for both the military and civilian needs of the nation.

"Too little, too late and too costly to the American people," is a thumbnail description of the new controls law passed by Congress and, reluctantly signed by President Truman.

One provision in the new law, exempting processed fruits and vegetables from price ceilings, will alone increase the nation's food bill by 11 per cent, it was officially estimated.

The Wage Stabilization Board was stripped of practically all its powers and left a hollow shell.

Rent controls were ordered killed after June 30, unless localities specifically request continuation.

The President was "requested" by Congress to invoke Taft-Hartley injunctions against the steel strike.

Wage and price controls were continued to next April 30, but new profit-guarantee provisions for retailers voted into the law will force price ceilings still higher if inflationary pressures continue.

Sen. Capehart Right—For Once Only authority for priorities and allocation of scarce materials was continued for a full year.

"This bill controls neither prices nor wages," said Sen. Homer Capehart (R., Ind.)—and for once he was right.

But it could have been worse. The joint Senate-House Conference Committee, working all night to whip into shape an acceptable compromise before the June 30 deadline, killed some of the worst provisions of the original bill adopted by the House.

One such provision which was buried, the Taft amendment, would have limited price controls only to rationed articles or allocated materials. Another would have killed rent controls immediately.

Advisory Status One school of thought on Capitol Hill speculated that the House never expected those provisions to become law but voted them merely so members would find it easier to obtain big business campaign contributions this fall.

Under the new law, the Wage Stabilization Board was limited solely to an "advisory" status on disputes over wages. While it retains its tripartite character, members of the WSB are subject

to Senate confirmation. All power to deal with nonmonetary labor-management disputes was taken away from the board. It can render advisory opinions in wage disputes only when the parties at issue or the government ask them.

"The board shall have no jurisdiction in any labor dispute," the new law says, "or with respect to any issue involved therein."

The law specifically directs that disputes be left to the jurisdiction of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

At its last meeting in Boston, the AFL Executive Council flatly warned that wage stabilization would founder if the WSB was deprived of authority to consider and act upon disputes.

NINE WRONG VOTES

Henry Talle, author of the Talle amendment to eliminate price controls, has voted consistently against measures supported by labor and other liberal groups.

Last year, for instance, Talle was listed as having voted wrong on all 9 key votes which Labor's League for Political Education used as a guide to judge the records of Congressmen.

Talle, whose biography in the Congressional Directory says he is "an educator in economics and political science," has represented a rural Republican district in northeastern Iowa since 1939.

STUDENTS ENTERTAINED BY MADISON WORKERS

Madison, Wis.—Danish students visiting the United States were guests for luncheon at a hotel and for dinner in the homes of workers in Madison.

Joe Mire of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees introduced the guests at the luncheon in the Park Hotel, and led the round-table discussion which followed.

The Madison Federation of Labor sponsored the project.

MACHINIST ELECTED TO EDUCATION POST

Redondo Beach, Calif.—By a whopping majority, John L. Fry, secretary-treasurer of Machinists District Lodge 720, was re-elected to the board of education governing high schools here and in Hermosa and Manhattan Beaches.

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