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Council Working For New Labor Legislation

ATLANTIC CITY.—Formation of a united AFL front to fight for replacement of the Taft-Hartley Act by a more equitable labor-management relations act in the next Congress was voted by the federation's Executive Council.

Recommendation for such action was made by Richard Gray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Department, in a report to the council.

Gray also urged that specific case histories be prepared for the information of Congress showing how the operation of the Taft-Hartley Act has injured many unions.

The Executive Council agreed with Gray that a unified AFL approach to the solution of the problems arising from the Taft-Hartley Act would be far preferable to piecemeal drives for special amendments exempting individual trades and unions from hardships they now suffer from the law.

A subcommittee of the council, consisting of Vice Presidents Woll and Doherty and Secretary-Treasurer Meany will direct efforts to form the united front, along with several other officials of representative unions to be added to the committee.

Case History Given

Gray made public one shocking case history showing how impossible it is for building trades unions to function effectively under the restrictions imposed by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The story, published in the August issue of the Building and Construction Trades Bulletin, involves the case of the huge Bull Shoals Dam project in which the firm of Brown and Root was the main contractor.

Gray explained that the building trades, like other unions, are required to obtain certification from the National Labor Relations Board to gain official bargaining status under the Taft-

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Adlai And Ike Be Invited To Speak To AFL Convention

ATLANTIC CITY — The AFL Executive Council, in session here, voted to invite both Presidential candidates, Gov. Adlai Stevenson and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, to address the national convention when it meets in New York City, September 15.

In all probability, after the candidates have spoken, the Executive Council will recommend to the convention that it endorse one or the other of the two Presidential candidates.

President Harry S. Truman also will be invited to address the convention.

If the AFL decides to endorse a Presidential candidate this will break a long tradition against such action by the federation. The only exception was 1924, when Bob La Follette was endorsed.

Previously, the administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education had decided to lay the groundwork for the decision of the convention.

Much Discussed Move

Officials of the league were directed to prepare factual analyses of the party platforms, of the records of both the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees of both parties, and of their campaign speeches as given up to the time of the convention.

Considerable discussion of whether or not to break the tradition of not endorsing a Presidential candidate took place in the meeting.

At the suggestion of Richard Walsh, president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, reported to the meeting on the political conventions held in Chicago. Meany said William Green, AFL president, with a committee of Executive Council members, presented the AFL platform proposals to both parties.

Meany said that the Republicans held their meeting in a small

room, with a subcommittee receiving the AFL proposals, and State Sen. Laird of Wisconsin as chairman. No comment was made on the statement by the committee, no questions were asked, and there was no discussion. However, Laird said that he would recommend the proposals to the full platform committee.

Laird Impressed

Meany declared that Laird was apparently impressed and recommended to the full committee that it call for a Labor-Management Committee session to consider proposals for changes in the Taft-Hartley Act. However, this was opposed by Sen. Eugene Milliken (Colo.), so that the Republican plank on labor was announced as fully endorsing the Taft-Hartley Act.

The AFL secretary-treasurer said the situation was different at the Democratic national convention. There, the AFL witnesses were heard by the full committee, William Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, was made chairman while the AFL delegates were testifying, and the platform agreed with AFL recommendations on almost every issue.

"We couldn't have written a better Taft-Hartley plank ourselves if they had let us," Meany remarked.

Some members of the LLPE administrative committee insisted that it was best to maintain the traditional AFL policy of not endorsing a Presidential candidate. Others said this would be "burying our heads in the sand."

It was finally decided to take another look at the situation between now and September 15, when the convention begins in New York City.

"We haven't heard much from the candidates themselves so far," it was remarked.

James L. McDevitt, director of

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Labor Should Know These Congressmen

A total of 176 Representatives supported each of the 3 amendments to the Defense Production Act which were opposed most strongly by organized labor and other consumer groups.

Fifty-three Democrats and 123 Republicans backed the Talle (R., Iowa) amendment to end price controls; the Lucas (D., Tex.) amendment to reorganize the Wage Stabilization Board with a majority of public members and to give it only advisory powers; and the Smith (D., Va.) amendment to request the President to force striking steelworkers back into the mills through use of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Here are the names of the members of the House who voted for all three provisions (Democrats in black type, Republicans in light):

ALABAMA—Andrews, Boykin, Grant.

ARIZONA—Patten.

ARKANSAS—Gathings, Norrell.

CALIFORNIA—Allen, Anderson, Bramblett, Hillings, Hunter, Jackson, Johnson, McDonough, Phillips, Poulson, Scudder, Werdell.

COLORADO—Chenoweth, Hill.

CONNECTICUT—Sadlak.

DELAWARE—Boggs.

FLORIDA—Herlong, Rogers.

GEORGIA—Cox, Davis, Forrester, Wheeler, Wood.

IDAHO—Wood.

ILLINOIS—Allen, Arends, Busbey, Chipfield, Church, Hoffman, Jenison, Jonas, Mason, McVey, Reed, Simpson, Springer, Vail, Velde, Vursell.

INDIANA—Adair Halleck, Harvey.

IOWA—Cunningham, Hoeven, LeCompte, Martin, Talle.

KANSAS—Cole, Hope, Ress, Smith.

KENTUCKY—Gregory.

LOUISIANA—Brooks, Larcade, Willis.

MAINE—McIntire.

MARYLAND—Devereux, Mill-

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