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AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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AFL WARNS OF DANGER OF RUNAWAY INFLATION

The cost of living, already at an all-time high, is continuing to rise, with the future most alarming, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor declared in its meeting in Atlantic City.

Blame for the situation, said the council, rests with Big Business, "which prevailed upon Congress to weaken price controls." It is also due "to profiteering right down the line, from the wholesale to the retail level.

The President was not asked to call a special session, but to "take whatever steps the facts make necessary to protect the public interests in the price crisis."

The text of the statement follows:

"The cost of living, already at an all-time high, is climbing at an alarming rate. There is grave danger again of runaway price inflation. Big business which prevailed upon Congress to weaken price controls must bear the responsibility for the critical trend.

"The worst situation is in food prices. The 82d Congress made it virtually impossible to keep food prices in check by removing ceilings from processed fruits and vegetables.

"There is no justification whatsoever for attributing the present price spiral to wage adjustments. All the evidence available proves that it is due to profiteering right down the line, from the wholesale to the retail level — profiteering made possible by the special interest amendments voted into the

price controls law by Congress.

"Due to the lag in official reporting of price changes, the current government figures do not reflect the sharp upturn in prices during the past few weeks. The public already has felt the change in the markets, but it won't know the full story of the bad news until the figures for the period up to July 15 are made public later this month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"In the months ahead, the prospect is even more forbidding. Prices of manufactured articles are bound to rise, due to the huge and unjustifiable increase in steel prices extorted from the government by the steel industry.

"The problem of inflation concerns all Americans—wage earners particularly. As living costs increase, the purchasing power of the wage dollar shrinks. Every broad rise in price represents a cut in the real earnings of the workers of this nation. Only a comparative few are receiving belated compensatory wage adjustments for the upward march of the price index.

"The Executive Council is convinced that unless prompt action is taken to halt and control the present inflationary trend, economic hardships will be suffered by millions of our people.

"Economic imbalances will be created that may pose a threat to our free enterprise system. In the long run, business and agriculture will be hurt just as severely as labor by inflation.

"The President of the United States has all these facts before

him. We urge him to take whatever steps the facts make necessary to protect the public interest in the price crisis."

William Green, AFL president, asked whether the President should call a special session of Congress, said:

"He can do that if he thinks it is the thing to do but we are not enthusiastic about that because the Southern Democrats and the Northern Republicans control Congress."

COUNCIL ASKS UNITED FRONT IN FIGHT FOR NEW LABOR ACT

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Hartley Act and that a representation election must be held before the NLRB will grant certification.

This Was 4-Year Job

As most building projects are completed in from 3 to 6 months, this process is ordinarily too slow and cumbersome for the building trades. But the Bull Shoals Dam project was a 4-year construction job and so, for the first time, the Building and Construction Trades Department authorized its local councils to ask the NLRB for a representation election.

Such a petition was filed March 4, 1948, 9 months after work was started on the project in Arkansas. On June 11, the NLRB directed that an election be held. It took place July 28 and the AFL Building Trades Unions won an overwhelming victory. In August the NLRB certified the Building Trades Council as the bargaining representative of the workers on the job.

The contractors, Brown and Root, then entered into negotiation with the unions, but reserved the right to contest the validity of the certification. The talks dragged on and on and in October the unions filed unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB against the firm. A strike was called the following month.

Case Dragged 3 Years

For more than 3 years the case dragged on before the NLRB and the courts. The unions won every decision but never actually got recognized by the company as the bargaining agent.

The dam was completed Nov. 1, 1951, and was dedicated by President Truman July 3, 1952. The only tangible result was an NLRB decision ordering the company to make back payments to

94 employes who lost their jobs as the result of the strike, but the company has refused to do this and long additional court action is anticipated.

"Here we see a contractor who has continually refused for 4 years on a government project to bargain in good faith with a duly certified union chosen after a secret ballot of his employes . . . who was twice found guilty by the NLRB of refusal to bargain, who still refused to bargain even after the Federal District Court of Appeals in St. Louis issued an enforcement decree of the NLRB order."

Gray noted that the Senate had unanimously adopted a bill last session to exempt building trades unions from the requirement of going through representation elections but that the House Labor Committee, under Chairman Barden of North Carolina, had refused even to hold hearings on it.

AFL TO INVITE ADLAI AND IKE TO SPEAK AT NEW YORK CONVENTION

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LLPE, reported to the meeting on the outcome of primary contests held to date, on the collection of funds for the political activities of the league, including the \$1 voluntary contributions, and on the plans for future participation in the Senatorial and Congressional contests this fall.

The meeting voted to urge all national and international presidents to keep a constant check on their local unions to make certain a real effort is made to get voluntary contributions from members.

McDevitt said that the goal this year is at least \$750,000, and that since 1950 collections for political activities have been over \$600,000.

LOAN LEAGUE HEAD ATTACKS HOUSING PLAN

Palo Alto, Calif.—The possibility that leaders of the building industry and of businessmen associated with it do not really want to fill America's full housing needs arose in an address by Ben H. Hazen, president of the United States Savings and Loan League.

Be UNION and buy LABEL to maintain American labor standards at home.