States Rights Insurance Bills Opposed by International Council

Local Unions Urged to Oppose Bills H. R. 3270 and S. 1362

Washington, D. C., May 22.—The International Council is taking vigorous steps to assure the defeat of bills presently before both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and commonly referred to as the “States Rights Insurance Bills.”

These bills, if passed, would have the effect of relieving the insurance companies of anti-trust acts and of removing from the employees of insurance companies the protections which they have presently enjoyed under the terms of the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The House bill, H. R. 3270, introduced by Congressman Walter of Pennsylvania, has been favorably reported out by the House Judiciary Committee and is now awaiting action by the House. The bill as reported out by the committee provides as follows:

“To affirm the intent of the Congress that the regulation of the business of insurance remain within the control of the several states and that the act of July 2, 1890, and October 15, 1914, as amended, do not apply to the business of insurance.”

Although this House bill has been reported out of committee and quoted above appears merely to be an attempt to relieve insurance companies from all the antitrust laws and from a pending action against them for violation of the same, its actual effect, if enacted into law, would be far broader than this.

The twin bill in the Senate, known as S. 1362, and sponsored by Senator Bailey of North Carolina, is still before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee of this Judiciary Committee has twice voted to strike out the entire bill but, principally through the efforts of Senator O'Mahony of Wyoming, has been held up by the business back to the subcommittee for additional testimony.

It now appears that the American Federation of Labor and its interested affiliates will have an opportunity to testify in opposition to the bill on Friday, May 26. Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchinson will testify on behalf of our International Council.

Should either bill, H. R. 3270 or S. 1362, be enacted by Congress, the effect of such legislation would unquestionably be that employees of insurance companies would no longer enjoy under the National Labor Relations Act protections which they now enjoy.

Of equal far-reaching importance is the fact that the passage of these bills will effectively result in the removal of insurance companies from the jurisdiction of the Labor Act.

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JACKSONVILLE MEMBERS WIN $110,000 RETROACTIVE PAY

Jacksonville, Fla., May 18.—As a direct result of the success of their collective bargain ing effort through Office Employees Union Local 4124, the Jacksonville Shipbuilding Co. in this city will shortly receive back pay checks totaling close to $110,000, according to John A. H. Goldman, president of the local.

These payments constitute wage adjustments retroactive to November 6, 1943, as negotiated in our contract with the company as recently approved by the Shipbuilding Commission of the War Labor Board. The standard wage payments are amounts covering night shift premiums, shift differentials, overtime, ten cents and seventh day rate clauses as contained in the Gulf Coast Zone Standards and the agreement between the company and the Jacksonville Metal Trades Council, to which our local has become a party.

The office and clerical workers at the St. Johns yard commenced organizing about one year ago, and the services of the NLRB were involved to establish our local union’s majority among the group. The NLRB elections were held on May 19, 1943, disclosed the fact that more than 87 percent of all votes cast favored the collective bargaining procedure and

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ALCOA Pact signed

Mobile, Ala., May 8.—An agreement between the Aluminum Ore Co., a subsidiary of the American Co. of America, and Office Employees Union 23695 has recently been signed, according to reports received from Organizer Walter L. Mitchell, who handled these negotiations. The agreement applies to all office and clerical workers at the Mobile plant of the company, as covered by the NLRB certification of January 21.

The agreement establishes a 40-hour week and provides for the payment of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week, and for all time worked on legal holidays. Paid vacations up to two weeks are provided.

Any employee who is selected by the local for future representation for the company shall be granted a leave of absence with no loss of seniority. In addition, the company has agreed that it is also provided that newly created or higher paid jobs are to be set aside and filled in accordance with the seniority provisions. Maintenance of union membership is also provided for.

The question of job classifications and wage rates are presently being studied by the local and will be the subject of wage negotiations with the company.

Assisting Organizer Mitchell on this contract committee, consisting of M. A. Jolis, Key Semple, H. J. Goldman and B. T. Roberts. Local 23695 is a good standing affiliate of our International Council.

COURT DECISION AWAITED

Washington, D. C., May 20.—The Supreme Court is expected shortly in the case pending before it involving the question of whether an insurance company must comply with the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act. This case, known as “Polish National Alliance vs. National Labor Relations Board,” arose out of unfair labor charges which were filed against this insurance company by our Chicago Local 20732 early in 1942, after the company had persistently refused to bargain with the union and had engaged in many types of unfair labor practices in an attempt to break the organization of its office force.

The charges filed by Local 20732 were sustained by the board in its

(Continued on Page 3)

Do It Now!

All local unions are urged to immediately write or telegraph the Congressmen from their districts urging that they oppose and vote against S. 1362.

All local unions are urged to immediately write or telegraph the Senators from their states urging that they oppose and vote against S. 1362.

These twin bills, the so-called “States Rights Insurance Bills,” if passed, would effectively serve to destroy the rights of the many thousands of office and clerical workers employed in the insurance industry to organize and bargain collectively under the protections established by the National Labor Relations Act, and would also destroy the rights of such workers to participate in the benefits gained through the application of the Wage and Hour Law to such companies.

Each local union member can materially assist by writing individual letters to his or her Senator and Congressman, urging them to oppose such bills.

100 PERCENT UNION

Pearl River, N. Y., May 17.—At the session held on May 15, all eligible voters among the office force of the Dexter Folder Co., a subsidiary of the American Corp., have voted to affiliate with our Local 23595, and Vice-President Coughlin, Regional Director William Collins, together with the office and clerical employees of the Lederle Laboratories, Inc.

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INTERNATIONAL UNION CHARTER PROGRESS

Washington, D. C., May 17.—President William Green at the close of the Executive Council meeting in Phila-
phia announced that the AFL plans to issue charters to 3
International Unions "in the near future" according to the
report contained in the AFL Weekly News Service out-
today.

"The proposed new unions comprise the Chemical Work-
ers, the Office Workers and the Fabricated Metal Work-
ers. Mr. Green said that the charters would be issued to
the new International Unions as soon as a few jurisdic-
tional matters are straightened out. He expressed the hope that the
charters would be issued before the next convention of
the AFL in November."

PLANs FOR 1944 CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS COMPLETED

Washington, D.C., May 16.—Following complete formulation of plans for the 1944 convention of our International Council with officers of Local No. 17707 and other officers of the AFL, J. Howard Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of the Council announced today that the forthcoming convention will be held in the air conditioned Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo., beginning Aug. 14. The business of the convention can probably be completed
within three days, thus permitting adjournment on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

It is anticipated that this convention will be the largest yet held by
our International Council and representatives from affiliated unions in
all sections of the United States and portions of Canada are expected
to be in attendance in considerable number.

Important Matters to be Considered

Many important matters will be presented to the delegates for their
consideration at this convention and it is anticipated that urgent and
forward steps will be initiated which will prove to the utmost advantage of
our affiliated local unions.

Possibly the most critical consideration will be the granting of an
International Union charter to our International Council by the Ameri-
can Federation of Labor at some later date. Preliminary steps for
the acceptance of this charter and the various problems associated
with the installation of same when it is granted will be discussed.

Indications are strong that added emphasis will be placed on future aggressive steps to be taken in the organizing of the unorganized
workers of our trade throughout its entire field. The need for such in-
creased activity is foreseen by many sources and is evidenced in the
economic growth of the labor movement for the establishment of collective bargain-
ing rights by those workers not yet members of our unions in many
fields of industry in every section of Canada and the United States.

Legislative and economic issues closely related to the present and
the postwar period insofar as they affect workers of our trade and the representation of
our locals with the balance of the American Federation of Labor will
doubtless receive consideration. Wage and price stabilization are
matters of grave concern to all office workers as is the economic
trend of government in the postwar

progression.

It is hoped that President Wil-
lian Green, Secretary-Treasurer
George Meany, Director of Organ-
ization Frank F. Fenton and other

T. V. A. MEMBERS HONORED

Knoxville, Tenn. — Members of the Public Safety Service Employees
Unions on the Tennessee Valley Authority were honored recently
when their group was awarded guidons by the United States Army
for being outstanding in training, appearance and efficiency, accord-
ing to reports received from Council Vice President E. H. Fritts, who is
also secretary and business repre-

sentative of the Tennessee Valley
Council of Office, Technical and
Service Employees Unions.

Receiving the awards on behalf
of the public safety service em-
ployees were union members Clifford W. Sheridan, E. M. Freeman, Rose-
mary Cross, James O. Burleson, Glen Ray and Thos. W. Bowlente.

The Public Safety Service em-
ployees of the Tennessee Valley Au-
thority are represented in all col-
cective bargaining matters with the
Authority by the Public Safety
Service Unions affiliated with the
American Federation of Labor and
our International Council.

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo.
DULUTH LOCAL PLANS NEW DRIVES

Duluth, Minn., May 19.—Realizing the greatness of their field of endeavor within this city and surrounding territory officers of Local No. 21276 today advised International Council President J. Howard Hicks, that the membership of the union had taken favorable action directed toward an expansion of its operation to a degree which will permit full participation in the opportunities for unionization of workers of our trade who are presently unorganized.

With the bulk of its membership employed in local operations of the American Steel & Wire Co. and the Walter Butler Shipbuilders, Inc., Local No. 21276 finds itself in a most advantageous position to carry additional unionization to office and clerical workers employed in Duluth and this area.

With the support of other AFL unions throughout the country, and ready support for the plans of the Duluth Local, it is anticipated that rapid progress can be made in organizational drives now under consideration.

Accompanied by AFL Organizer William F. Wright and Representative E. B. Pearson of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor President Hicks has devoted several days to the handling of negotiations and other matters in behalf of the local union, as well as meeting with the officers and membership of the organizations representing present organizational opportunities in which assistance was readily forthcoming for the activities of other trade unions in the city.

Following a meeting with representatives of nearby Superior (Wisconsin) Federation of Labor the officers of the two locals have recently expressed the hope that the increased expansion in the activities of Local No. 21276 will be reflected among unorganized office and clerical workers in that city. Arrangements have also been made to go out for the joint participation in the forthcoming drives by labor circles in both cities.

WAGE INCREASES WON BY OAKLAND LOCAL

Oakland, Calif., May 16—Wage increases for upwards of 30 office and clerical workers ranging from 6c to 50c per hour have recently been negotiated with McKesson & Robbins, covering the workers in the company's Oakland, Calif., office. According to Secretary-Treasurer Carl F. Nelson of our International Council, who is also a business representative of Local 20744 at Oakland.

The increases as negotiated have been submitted to the Labor Board on Form 10, and it is provided and agreed to by the parties that the increases will become effective as of September 1, 1943.

Vice President Nelson also reports the Labor Board has approved the $4 per week increase negotiated for the office and clerical workers employed in the laundry industry in the Oakland area. This laundry case was processed through the War Labor Board in only 7 weeks elapsed time.

American Radiator Election Won

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 15.—The office and clerical workers employed by the American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corp. have recently overwhelmingly voted for representation through Office Employees Union Local 23647, according to reports received from Organizers H. G. Flaugh and P. A. Trant.

In a recent consent vote, under the auspices of the NLRB clerical force in this plant by a more than 75 percent vote employees indicated an interest in and desire for bargaining through their A. F. of L. organization.

It is anticipated that negotiations on a collective bargaining contract will shortly be commenced.

Supreme Court (Continued from Page 1)

decision of August 11, 1942. The company, however, contended that unionization of the office and clerical workers employed by the Pacific Steamship Lines, Inc., at their Seattle yard, according to George P. Firth, executive secretary of Organizers of our International Council. Under the terms of the newly negotiated contract Local 20380 has

Tacoas, Wash., May 15.—A contract has not been signed at the Seattle Tacoma Shipbuilding Co. by Offices Workers Union 20360, representing through the Tacoma Metal Trades Council, with which it is affiliated. This contract covers the approximately 1,500 general office and clerical workers employed at the Tacoma yard, according to George P. Firth, executive secretary of Organizers of our International Council.

The Green Duck Co, manufacturers of fire and smokeoots, lapel buttons and convention badges, will shortly be completing negotiations involving a union agreement with company management, according to Vice President Kriete, of our International Council who is also president of the local union.

The company finds, union buttons and convention badges for a large number of AFL international and local union members unionization for the above force would complete full recognition of American Federation of Labor union workers in the employ of the company.

Green Duck Organizing

Chicago, III., May 12.—Assisted by AFL Regional Director Harry O'Keefe, representatives of Local 23647, directed by a substantial vote over the board's order and immediately appealed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals for an en banc view of the same. On June 5, 1943, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals filed its opinion and entered its decree by upholding the application of the National Labor Relations Board for cease and desist from union activity and enforcing, with some modifications, the NLW's order against the company.

The Polish National Alliance still would not comply and petitioned the Supreme Court for certiorari. The Supreme Court granted this request, limited to the question of whether the Labor Relations Act applied to the company. This question has been argued before the court and briefs were filed last December.

A court decision is expected before the summer recess. On the basis of the facts in this case, we have every reason to believe that the court will sustain the order of the board and the decree of the Seventh Circuit Court to the effect that the insurance operations of the respondents are an integral part of commerce and that the company is therefore properly subject to the National Labor Relations Act. A court decision will undoubtedly accelerate and stimulate organization among the 4,500 clerical workers employed in the insurance industry.

It is anticipated that negotiations on a collective bargaining contract will shortly be commenced. 

SESSION-TACOMA SHIPYARDS SIGN NEW AGREEMENTS

TACOMA-Signing, yesterday, of the first union contract for the men employed in the shipyards here was announced by the Pacific Wages and Timekeeping Department.

This contract, covering shipyard employees of the Seattle-Tacoma shipyards, and forming part of the collective bargaining agreement between the AFL shipyard unions and the shipbuilders, was concluded as a result of a summary war-time labor relations agreement between the AFL, the shipbuilders and the Defense Plant Corporation.

The agreement, which provides for a 10 percent increase in wages and an extension of hours worked, was signed by AFL officials, shipyard representatives and the War Labor Board.

Improved Contract Expected

Louisville, Ky., April 23.—Conflicting early reports of a new labor contract between the employers and Local 22906 employed in the local Naval Ordnance Division of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. are marshaling their forces for meetings with company management. The reports are based on a statement by Kenneth C. Jasper, president of the union.

The statement of the maladjustments in present wage rates will prove the principal objective during negotiations of Local 22906 and it is anticipated that alterations will be effected in job classifications and other conditions which will be to the benefit of all members of the union employed in the company's offices.

With the local agreement expiring at approximately the same time as the agreement held by Local No. 23010, Canton, Ohio, which also has a similar operation of the company unionized, officers of Local No. 22906 are hopeful that a high rate of cooperation between both unions will result in added improvements for the membership of both locals. Representatives of the two unions are presently in contact with each other and their efforts are directed toward a united program which will benefit the membership of each as a result.

Standard Oil Campaign Planned

Reporting that office and clerical workers employed in the local office of the Standard Oil Co. have evinced strong desire for unionization, Vice President Otto E. Kriete of Local 22906 is urging embark upon a campaign of unionization among these workers. AFL officials in the city are promising full backing and great favor and it is anticipated that more than minor support will be forthcoming from this source.

In conclusion, on the subject of the war, it is noted that the shipyard unions are reaping the benefits of a rapid decline in skill shortages which are a primary concern of the War Labor Board. It is also noted that the demand for skilled workers is likely to continue and that the unions are taking steps to meet this demand.

The final paragraph concludes by noting that the shipyard unions are facing a new challenge in the form of a labor shortage, but that they are prepared to meet this challenge through the efforts of both the unions and the employers. The unions are working closely with the employers to ensure a smooth transition to the post-war period, and are committed to maintaining high standards of wages and working conditions for their members.
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1.—The Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education on the Senate Labor and Education Committee on Education and Labor has just released its first report dealing with wages and salaries of teachers.

Highlighting this report is the recommendation of the committee that the War Labor Board cease applying the Little Steel formula on all wages and salaries of $200 or less per month for heads of families and $150 or less per month for single persons. The committee urges that increases in wages and salaries up to those levels should be allowed without application of any kind to the War Labor Board.

In this report the committee stated that it had found "that some 20,000,000 Americans are paid wages and salaries of less than $200 a month." The committee also declared that "the failure of the government to work out a formula that will protect 20,000,000 Americans from the worst of the war is one of the most staggering failures of the war effort."

The committee added that "if the 20,000,000 Americans who are earning wages and salaries of less than $200 a month are to be saved from the worst of the war, the War Labor Board must cease its operations on them.

The committee also made a number of other recommendations, including the establishment of a new formula for determining the minimum wage for workers in the steel industry.

The committee stated that "the new formula will provide a 'cost-of-living index which will reflect changing living standards.'"

One of the most significant findings of the Senate committee was that at present price levels an income of even $50 a week provides a 'very narrow margin of living.'"

The committee investigation disclosed that many American families received less than $200 a month, a level below the subsistence standard.

It is reported that 1,500,000 steel workers last year averaged $205.60 a week; 5,000,000 retail trade workers averaged $228.86 a week; 10,000,000 financial employees $188.84; 2,000,000 nonunion school local government employees, $28.85.

School teachers averaged $32 a week, and the report said that 5 percent of the nation's teachers are paid less than $600 a year.

In its report the committee also recommended that "the present inflationary trend be checked by investigation of prices, and that the Office of Price Administration be granted funds necessary to assist enforcement of such controls."

Washington, D. C., May 15.—At the request of Office Employees Union 11773, Washington Central Labor Council, Washington, D. C., has approved a resolution submitted by this local endorsing the recommendations of the Senate Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education, according to the report of W. R. Hicks, president and business representative of the local, who presented this matter to the Central Labor Union.

The resolution as adopted, endorsed all six of the recommendations of the subcommittee and instructed local officers to "take appropriate steps to bring about the realization of the recommendations for the enactment of necessary legislation and otherwise."

On the recommendation of the resolution as adopted are being sent to President Roosevelt, Economic Stabilization Director Vinson, War Labor Board Chairman Davis, to the members of the Senate subcommittee, the members of both houses of Congress from states and districts, and to the national legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor. The office employees union advises that Local 11773 is sponsoring a similar resolution at the May 22 meeting of the State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor convention, which convenes in Cumnour, May 22.

The action taken by Local 11773 was in response to the recommendations made to all local unions by its national office and to the International Council in connection with this matter earlier this month.

New Local Chartered

Pasco, Wash., May 8.—Office Employees Union No. 23961 was chartered by the A. F. of L. for the office and clerical workers employed in Pasco-Kennewick and vicinity.

San Francisco, Calif., May 18.—The War Labor Board, in response to urgent pleas made through our local unions in the San Francisco Bay area, with the approval of the chairman of the California Federation of Labor, today announced a revision in its 1.5 returns and salary bracket system.

This move is being carried out in order to provide for higher raises for the lower brackets at $150, $200, and $250 per month.

It is estimated that 183,500 office workers in the San Francisco area will receive an increase of 25 cents on the dollar from this wage bracket revision.

Ford Motor Hearing

Washington, D. C., May 11.—The National Labor Relations Board today announced that it will hear oral argument in Washington on May 20, in connection with the exceptions filed by the Ford Motor Co. on the intermediate report issued by the Board in the case of the Ford Motor Co. vs. Ward in an unfair labor practice case filed against the company by Local 2133 of the United Auto Workers.

Local 2133 will be represented at the May 20 argument by its President, Lorraine S. Rhodes, and the Ford Motor Co. by its attorney, R. Hutchings of our International Council, who will present argument to the board in defense of its position.

Collaborating closely with representatives of our International Council in the organization of this important Local 2133, J. William J. Layton, business representative of District 11 of the International Association of Machinists for Ford workers presently enrolled within the membership of the IAM, unionization of the office and clerical staffs will result in full representation through the American Federation of Labor and all but a few members of the company which will be received in the other trades yet to be organized.

TRANSIT WORKERS JOINING

Minneapolis, Minn., May 10.—Assisted by representatives of the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street & Elec- tric Railway Employees of America, organizers of Local No. 17601 are presently organizing office and clerical workers employed by the local city transportation company, according to L. G. Nygren, financial secretary and business representative of the union.

Any worker in the undertaking is reportedly widespread among employees of the company and it is anticipated that Local No. 17601 will shortly be in position to demand collective bargaining recognition from management of the concern.

ORGANIZATION PLANNED

Nashville, Tenn., May 19.—As a result of the interest for unionization of office and clerical workers employed in the local plant of the Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corp., the national office of the International Council is conferencing with representatives of the local labor movement regarding the establishment of an active campaign in response to the requests of these workers.

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