Stressed by Green

Washington, D.C.—In his Labor Day message to labor papers, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called upon every member to join in an unrelenting campaign for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"As true Americans," he said, "the members of the American Federation of Labor will rally to meet this challenge. We are determined not to let our freedoms be throttled. We are ready to fight with every legitimate weapon at our command to protect our right to improve working and living conditions for ourselves and our fellow workers. We will not permit or supinely permit the forces of reaction to capture control of our country."

He declared that labor must also exert its political strength as never before in its history and "for reelection every member of Congress who voted for this obnoxious law."

"We must," he stressed, "join in clotting to our national and state law-making bodies in a movement to organize new code, which will assure decent homes, decent wage floors and decent health conditions for the general membership. In fighting for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, labor is striving for the attainment of these goals."

Non-Communist Affidavit

International Officers File

The Office Employes International Union on August 25 filed with the National Labor Relations Board a General Counsel R. D. Donegan forms sworn to by each of its international officers, affirming individually that they are not members of the Communist Party, or affiliated with such party, and that they do not believe in, nor are they organized by, any illegal or unconstitutional methods.

It was the first international union to file these affidavits which are required by the National Labor Relations Board under Sub-section 9 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act as amended, if a labor organization is to have access to the NLRA's services in the processing of its cases.

In commenting on the action taken by the union in filing these affidavits, President Paul R. Hutchings stated:

"Not an Endorsement."

"This action on the part of our International officers does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act by our International Union or any of its officers. We opposed the enactment of this vicious statute with all the strength at our command. In the required affidavit forms we are acting expeditiously as we did in the filing of our registration forms with the Secretary of Labor, because such filing is now a prerequisite to the use of the National Labor Relations Board's services by our International Union and its 260 local unions, which may in many instances it necessary to process cases through the Board. We do not desire to impede the necessary use of the Board's services."

"I desire to point out that our International Union from the time of its formation has maintained its international constitution, which is our basic law, a clear and unequivocal requirement reading as follows: ‘No person shall be admitted to membership in any local union of the International Union who is not in an occupation under the jurisdiction of this International Union, or who advocates principles or lends aid in any way to organizations or movements whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada, or are in conflict with the policies of this International Union.'"

Communists Banned

"The requirements of our own law as indicated above, have been officially constructed by our Executive Board and by unanimous action of our International Union convention as prohibiting any member of our International Union from advocating principles or lending support to any subversive organization or movement whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada."

The Survey declares: ‘This action on the part of our International officers does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act by our International Union or any of its officers. We opposed the enactment of this vicious statute with all the strength at our command. In the required affidavit forms we are acting expeditiously as we did in the filing of our registration forms with the Secretary of Labor, because such filing is now a prerequisite to the use of the National Labor Relations Board's services by our International Union and its 260 local unions, which may in many instances it necessary to process cases through the Board. We do not desire to impede the necessary use of the Board's services."

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The Office Worker
Official organ of the OFFICE EMPLOYES INTERNATIONAL UNION

Paul R. Hutchings, President
J. Howard Hicken, Sec.-Treas.

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THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day rightfully belongs to American workers who toil diligently and try to make the best of their daily tasks. It was the creation of laborers, not of politicians. It was the brainchild of a union carpenter 12 years before Labor Day was proclaimed by Congress. It was organized by Samuel Gompers, a native of New York City who joined the ranks of America’s toilers while still a child, and who was the father of the observance in honor of the country’s working people.

In May of 1882, the newly organized Central Labor Union of New York City and its affiliated organizations set aside Labor Day as a national holiday.

McGuire suggested that the holiday be known as Labor Day and that it be set for the first Monday in September, which would put it midway between two national holidays—Fifth of July and Thanksgiving.

Workers enthusiastically embraced the idea. A committee was named and soon preparations were underway for the initial celebration of Labor Day.

Approximately two years after this first Labor Day, the 25 delegates to the first national convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers’ national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality.

From then on, for the next few years organized labor devoted its attention to securing state legislation marking Labor Day a legal holiday. Early in 1887, Oregon enacted the first state labor law, but this measure was struck down by the state’s supreme court.

The Labor Day holiday was finally established as a legal holiday in 1894, when Congressional action was taken to make Labor Day a legal holiday.

Labor Day is a day set aside by governmental authority to honor working people.

The Labor Day holiday was adopted as a legal holiday in 1894, when Congressional action was taken to honor working people.

Labor Day is observed in all parts of the country and is a day set aside by governmental authority to honor working people.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Office Employes International Union, I express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all those who have contributed to the success of this important day.

Paul R. Hutchings
International President

ALWAYS THE CRUSADER!
The Office Worker

OEIU Registers With Labor Department

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union on August 11 filed with Secretary Labor a notice of registration under the new National Labor Relations Management Act. It was the first union to comply with this provision of the act.

In connection with the filing, International President Paul R. Hutchinson, and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hodes emphasized: “This action on our part does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley act, the enactment of which we opposed along with other bona fide labor organizations.

“There is no question in our minds that our 200 local unions will in many instances find it necessary to process cases through the National Labor Relations Board under the old Act and under the new Act. Your filing is a prerequisite to our using such board, we are acting so as not to impede the necessary use by our local unions of the Board’s services as provided by the Act.

“During the last two years, office and clerical workers, through our local unions, have used the NLRA in close to 150 elections to establish their bargaining rights, as well as in many cases of discrimination and other unfair labor practices engaged in by employers. It appears to us that even with the severe handicaps to free collective bargaining imposed by the amended statute, a number of our local unions will, of necessity, insist upon such biased bargaining rights for office and clerical workers.

“Office and clerical workers who so greatly need the benefits of organization and collective bargaining in order to survive this period, particularly during the era of price inflation, should have no impediment to their necessary use of the National Labor Relations Board through our local unions throughout the country to secure representation at the polls. And thus meeting this requirement of the new statute, we have opened the way to the use of the Board’s services by our local unions when such use may prove advantageous to their membership.”

Education Is The Answer

By JOHN D. CONNORS, Director Workers Education Bureau of America

Labor Day, 1947, finds our organized labor movement confronted with one of its greatest challenges. The Taft-Hartley Bill, signed by the President’s veto, has brought us face to face with a grave crisis. We must study how best to secure public recognition of the injustices and contradictions in the act and thus bring about its eventual repeal or drastic amendment.

This legislation points up as never before how important is a continuing and expanding education, if the American labor movement is to meet the demands made upon it for understanding labor’s unique contributions to policies and so put them into practice for the best good of all. Labor must learn the responsibility to acquaint the general public with those theories and policies so that an understanding and wider sympathy with organized labor may develop which will eventually make the people more intelligent and vote intelligently. Only thus will labor succeed in its task not only in the grotesque contributions of its pioneers which this day honors. Only thus can labor convince those outside its ranks that it is a responsible part of the American community.

On this Labor Day let us firmly reassert our resolve to extend our hand in helping labor to achieve the harmonious and peaceful relations which are our preservation and extension of true democracy.

Green Sees Holiday On ’48 Election Day

Green Day, Wis.—AFL President William Green said a holiday for 10,000,000 working men on Election Day in 1948 will highlight the AFL’s fight for a labor ballot and the best possible vote against members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act.

At a news conference before he addressed the convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, Mr. Green forecast the most intensive campaign of political action in AFL history. He said that most Congressmen who approved the bill would be defeated, adding that he never had seen the workers “so aroused.”

Details of the holiday are scheduled for discussion at a meeting of the AFL Executive Council, Chicago, Mr. Green said. He added that workers in essential services would remain at work.

Cover Girl

Washington, D. C.—An attractive member of the office and clerical department of the U.S. office women union-minded.”

Labor Doing Great Job for All

By LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, U. S. Secretary of Labor

Labor’s own holiday, this year, is appropriately a holiday for all the workers of the country. In filing their rank and file it is the labor organizations that are for the benefit of the country as a whole.

“The prestige and dignity of labor have increased greatly since 1882, when the first Labor Day celebration by the late William Green. The progress made is due to the vital part labor has played in the development of our country. This is the year for this day’s celebrations over the land.

“The achievements of the recent past and the problems of the future are uppermost in our minds today. I would like to call attention again to some registration, but little-noticed facts that bear on both points.

One is the surprising amount of organizational action in the last two years.

Another is our great record of production, in peace as well as in wartime. Production is the great promise of the nation. We must maintain the faith and courage of those who made this great record.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics placed our International Labor Union, which has one of the greatest tasks in history, in achieving a satisfactory URGE COOPERATION TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Committee of the National Planning Association, a private non-profit organization, called for greater cooperation between labor and management to increase the productivity of the nation.

The statement, signed by 33 prominent labor officials, emphasized the need for increased productivity and urged management to invite the unions they deal with to explore with them how to eliminate inefficiency.

Cost of Living Soars Again; Business Gets Record Profits

Washington, D. C.—Like the thermometer responding to a heat wave, the cost of living soared again as the appetites of Big Business for profits, and more profits, remained insatiable.

The cost of living index, which measures the rising cost of goods in the market, was released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For the month of June, the index ended at 151.1 for a record high, eclipsing the former level scored in March.

Retail prices of living essentials, which costs of living index represents, were 18 percent higher than a year ago, the bureau said.

It is doubly discouraging to wage earners to realize that this record does not include increases likely to result from the new rent control law to be enacted by Congress.

The rising food and meat prices noticed especially during the last month. What about profits? The answer may be found in the magazine, "The entrepreneur, a millionaire and itself a business institution. "Time." It is amusingly fruitful. The question of whether profits is stronger than fiction. Earnings of corporations, it claimed, "had almost reached the realm of fable."

The most recent figures for the first six months of 1947, corporations were "making $530,000 a minute," the magazine pointed out. During that period, aggregate profits ran at an annual rate of $29 billion before taxes, $8 billion over 1946, and of $17.4 billion after taxes, up 29 percent above 1946.

"Increases of 100 percent to 300 percent were not uncommon," declared "Time."

Rent Control

Washington, D. C.—OEIU headquarters has sent to all local unions circulars explaining how tenants can secure maximum protection under the new law which substantially weakens rent control.
OFFICERS OF OEIU FILE AFFIDAVITS

(Continued from Page 1)

and Canada, including specifically membership in our country's Communist Party, either at the time of their admission to membership or at any time thereafter.

"Our International Union, by unanimous convention, subscribed to the conclusion that the Communist Party is one whose purpose in our country's Federal Government is to overthrow our fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada and to adopt the concept that affiliation with it or any other subversive organization as specified in our constitution by any member of the Office Employees International Union constitutes in and of itself sufficient grounds for and indeed the expulsion of any member of this union who is such a party.

Convention Action

"Our 1947 convention by unanimous action also endorsed the Special Report on Communism, adopted by the International Union at the 56th convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago on October 16th, 1946. To that effect, speaking report minces no words in exposing the Communist threat.

"As American trade unionists we are carrying aloft the torch of human liberty which the Communists now seem determined to extinguish. It is an argument that we are standing for the conceptions of human liberty, conceived by our European ancestors in rebellion against tyranny, oppression, and punishment, and upon which we have built our nation, with its free institutions, can be eliminated from the world, and a Godless, arbitrary dictatorship established in its place.

"There can be no loyalty by any citizen to our nation's form of government and its institutions of freedom, if they give their first allegiance to the Communist dictatorship and the policies emanating from the Kremlin.

"Communism at present is the most dynamic, reactionary force in the world. To let Communism control, then every social, economic and political right which Americans have won through the Revolutionary War would be destroyed.""


All local unions were immediately supplied with affidavit forms and instructions so that all locals using NLRB services could complete their filing requirements without delay.

Tells "Red-Licking" Formula Used By Garment Unions

Washington, D. C.—The special tactics and organizational set up by which the big needle trade unions defeated communist attempts to capture their membership is described in an article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post.

The article, entitled "How the Garment Unions Licked the Communists," is by J. C. Rich, editor of the garment workers publication of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union.

The article points out that although there are "more communists to the square foot of working space" in the leftists than in all other industrial plants and centers, the apparel trade unions have contained and stymied the party liner's more effective than such organizations as the electrical or automobile workers' unions.

The garment workers licked the communists not by being novel or subversive, Mr. Rich states, but in tactics which are not to be found in all other unions. The prime objective must be to organize the majority of the membership in the trade unions so as to defeat the communist strategy of infiltration and domination by a minority of the membership, fellow travelers and fellow wanderers.

The article lists in detail, the measures by which the majority in the apparel trades unions was mobilized to combat the communists. It is the committee system which exist in the unions for the special purpose of rallying the membership on crucial issues. Communist attempts to divide the members on racial and religious issues are met head on as are the measures taken to counter these attacks.

The campaign strategy by which the communists were defeated in the apparel industry is for: the International Ladies Garment Workers Union where the communist influence is so strongly concentrated, is stressed. As a result of this strategy, more than 126,000 members participated in the ballot, and of these less than 15,000 voted the communist ticket.

In New York where the communists are most strongly organized, the single candidate sponsored or endorsed by the communists was defeated by labor.

The article concludes with a statement from David Dubinsky president of the ladies garment union, "We were the effect of a merger of labor and what organization has done any organization could do."

"Americans who cherish their liberty will never allow a complete submission of their fellowmen to the dictates of a minority."

LOCAL OFFICERS SERVE

Elmira, N.Y.—M. B. Cochon, business representative and Vice-President of OEIU Local 137, has been appointed by the executive committee of the Elmira Central Trades and Labor Assembly, and another member of the local, Walter Nygren, is on the executive of that body. Mr. Cochon is also a member of the governing board of the Elmira Labor Review—the local labor paper.

INCREASES GAINED IN KOEHRING PACT

Milwaukee, Wis.—In its new contract with the Koehring Co. OEIU Local 9 has won a general increase of $3 per week in its salary range, according to Business Representative Harold Beck of the local who handled the negotiations together with the bargaining committee from the office.

Another change was the reopening of the clause allowing for negotiations on wages to take place at any time during the year upon 30 days notice by either party. The previous agreement had only allowed for wage negotiations from the anniversary date of the agreement.

DAVID A. MORSE NEW UNDER SECRETARY

Washington, D. C. — President Truman has appointed David A. Morse as official of Labor, Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach announced.

Mr. Morse has been assistant secretary of labor in the Department of Labor since 1946.

He has devoted his activities primarily to the development of the department's program of international affairs. In his new position he will supervise these operations, and also carry on the administration of the under secretaryship.

Mr. Morse succeeds Keen Johnson, former governor of Kentucky, who resigned July 31, to return to private industry.

Labor Oppression Invites Disaster, Says Industrialist

Washington, D. C.—Robert W. Johnson, chairman of the board of Johnson & Johnson, manufacturers of pharmaceutical supplies, denounced the NAM as an organization that's trying to turn back the clock and thus bring on chaos in labor-management relations.

Speaking at a labor relations forum conducted by Catholic University, Johnson warned his fellow employers that capitalism is inviting its own destruction by opposition to labor.

His views were similar to those of Cyrus Eaton, another big in- dustrialist, who recently attacked the "anti-labor" nature of the NAM and called for "muzzling" of the NAM.

Mr. Johnson said: "Our future will be determined between capitulation and elimination of labor-management conflict. We can sit still until catastrophe comes; we can hasten it by opposing reforms or by demanding blind reaction.

"To daily, to obstruct, to attempt to reverse and exasperate the most is only to court disaster but to guarantee it.

"Johnson condemned the NAM leadership for publication of a book entitled the "American Free Enterprise System." Writers of the volume call for destruction of "union security," elimination of all regulation of industry, no curbs on competition, and freedom for employers to use any means to achieve their ends.

"In plain English," he said, "these writers for the NAM call for a return to the 'hands-off', laissez faire economics of the 1800's and demand that labor—which means men and women—shall be reduced again to a mere commodity that can be bought, sold, exploited and scrapped like so much machinery.

"The whole secret of industrial peace in the future, Johnson maintained, lies in fair dealing with labor, and in a real "sense of dignity" so they will not be mere cogs in a machine.

"Striking at proposals for a 65-cent minimum wage, Johnson declared significantly that the figure is too low, and voted a weekly minimum wage of $35, nearly 90 cents an hour.

"The time has come to accept the truth that when less than a subsistence living are a liability to society, Modern society must not only set a floor under subsides, grants-in-aid, or social loss through destitution. "Respecting the national economy—must pay this bill anyway, why not pay it at the source through adequate wage-hour legislation?"