FINDS COERCION IN PENSION SCHEME

St. Louis, Mo.—An NLRB trial examiner has held that it is discriminatory for a company to condition eligibility of its employees to participate in its retirement plan upon the fact that they do not designate a labor organization to represent them.

The Inter-State Motor Freight System, Inc., in the fall of 1951 established a retirement trust for the benefit of those of its employees who were not members of a collective bargaining unit nor represented for bargaining purposes by any labor organization. Under the terms of the trust a non-union employee would cease to be eligible as a participant if he became a union member.

OEIU Local 13 filed charges against the company, charging that eligibility to participate in the company's retirement trust plan was so defined as to interfere with and restrain employees from their right to join or designate a labor organization for collective bargaining purposes.

Trial Examiner Charles W. Snyder held the case in November and has issued his Intermediate Report and Recommended Order to the Board to the effect that a non-union employee would cease to be eligible as a participant if he became a union member.

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The proposed plan would be voluntary, with individuals maintaining the right to choose their own doctors and physicians. For people who could not afford membership, the Commission proposes that the Federal government and the states together contribute $750 million to help meet all their medical expenses.

State Supervision

The health insurance plans would be locally or regionally operated and managed by boards of laymen and doctors. They would be aided by Federal funds, but supervised by participating states. All plans would have to meet standards set up by a proposed U. S. Department of Health and Security. Present voluntary prepaid plans would be encouraged to participate on the basis that they offered comprehensive health insurance coverage, without excluding anyone for age, sex, employment, race, religion, or previous medical history.

The main weakness of the proposal is that states would be free to participate or stay out. Objecting to this, three members of the Commission said that leaving participation "to the option of the state" would defeat the primary goal of giving everyone access to complete medical care.

In addition to nationwide voluntary health insurance, the Commission recommended that a non-union employee would cease to be eligible as a participant if he became a union member.

Voluntary Health Insurance Plan Proposed By Commission

Washington—the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation has issued its long-awaited report proposing a nation-wide system of voluntary prepaid health plan that will meet all the basic health service needs of all the people.

The proposed plan would be voluntary, with individuals maintaining the right to choose their own doctors and physicians. For people who could not afford membership, the Commission proposes that the Federal government and the states together contribute $750 million to help meet all their medical expenses.

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Tenth of People Have ‘Security’

Geneva, Switzerland—A tenth of the world’s population enjoys some kind of social security protection, according to the International Labor Office’s 1951-1952 “Year Book of Labor Statistics.”

The 362-page document shows that while the cost of living and world employment rose during the past two years, but that living costs have not begun to level off or even to drop.

Between June, 1950, and June, 1952, living cost indices ranged from 6 per cent in Lisbon, to more than 70 per cent in Buenos Aires.

The “Year Book” makes the following estimate concerning the number of persons now covered by social security plan:

About 150 million breadwinners in 45 countries have old age, invalidity or survivor’s insurance.

About 125 million workers are protected against loss of income from sickness or maternity.

About 30 million are entitled to unemployment compensation.

About 200 million persons have the right to螳}

Allowances are being paid at present for more than 33 million children.

In addition to the more than 45 countries studied, other nations not furnishing statistics to the ILO have social schemes covering millions of additional persons, and even in the poorest countries many persons have various forms of protection not included in the statistics furnished to the ILO.

Read Your Union Paper

“When it comes to the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause.”

SAMBUR GOMPERS.

Founder and First President, American Federation of Labor.

Wages of Union Workers Higher

New York City—A survey of Federal government establishments and private firms showed that union workers receive an average of $1.32 more an hour than non-union employees.

The committee studying wages and gathering data for the government’s cost-of-living index includes representatives of 20 trade unions.

The survey, which is not yet complete, showed that union machinists, electricians, sheet metal workers, rubber workers, and plumbers earned $1.36 an hour and up, compared with $1.00 to $1.04 for non-union workers. The same pattern held true for painters, carpenters and truckers.

In addition, many trade unionists work a 7-hour, 38-hour week with double, or time-and-a-half pay for overtime. The rest operate on

NEW PRICE INDEX ISSUED BY CANADA

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada’s new consumer price index, which has been constructed to replace its cost-of-living index, has been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with the issue of a special report entitled “The Consumer Price Index, January 1949-August 1952.”

Copies available from the Publications Section at 25 cents each.

The new index marks the fifth in a series of Canadian retail price indexes, and is said to be the most comprehensive retail price index ever constructed for Canada.

While the Consumer Price Index is an entirely new index from post-war expenditure patterns, it serves the same purpose as the cost-of-living index.

That is, it measures the average percentage change in retail prices of goods and services purchased by a large and representative group of Canadian urban families.

The change in the title has been made to clarify the fact that the index is a measure of price change and is not affected by changes in standards of living.

Explains Construction

The special report on the new index contains an explanation of the construction of the consumer price index and a record of its movement from January, 1949, to August, 1952, and gives detailed information on such aspects of the index as purpose, family coverage, base period, and details of items included as well as their relative importance.

It also gives the formula used in calculating the index, outlines methods of price collection and explains special features of the new index such as the methods of incorporating seasonal variations in food consumption, and changes in the price element of home-ownership costs.

In publishing the consumer price index forward from January, 1949, the Bureau has provided a record of nearly four years for which it is possible to compare the movements of the price index, the cost-of-living index, and the cost-of-living index.

Month-to-month movements in the two indexes have been in the same direction except on a very few occasions.

Such differences as have occurred are attributable to the more up-to-date weighting system of the consumer price index and other improvements as described in the report.

Reasons for 1949 Base

The year 1949 was selected as a reference level or base period for the consumer price index for a variety of reasons. It was considered the most satisfactory post-war reference, not only for price index comparisons but also for other economic indicators. In addition, prices during 1949 were relatively stable.

Regular monthly publication of the consumer price index commenced with the October 1 index released early in November. The consumer price index and the cost-of-living index will be published jointly for a period of six months.
GREAT DEMAND FOR LEGISLATIVE BOOK

Washington—The 1953 edition of the "Legislative Achievements of the American Federation of Labor" is ready for distribution.

This booklet has reached the level of great demand in recent years because of the even more intense interest in the American Federation of Labor on Capitol Hill in Washington.

This popular volume also includes a statement of the activities of the AFL's National Legislative Committee.

William C. Hushki, chairman, National Legislative Committee, under whose direction the "Legislative Achievements" booklet has been compiled, also acts as the administrative head of the Administrative Committee of the National Legislative Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Copies Available

This council meets each month during the sessions of Congress. Copies are distributed free to all members and to the general public.

Bankers Unite To Stop Embarrassing

Chicago—American bankers have formed the Bank-Share Owners Advisory League to try to halt an increasing wave of embargoes. From 1934 through 1951, 105 banks were forced to close because of business losses due to embargoes. Although deposits were protected up to a limit of $5,000 ($10,000 in 1951 and 1951), the banks were forced to shut down.

An FBI study showed that embargoes and shortages in 1951 doubled or increased by 20 per cent over 1951. The study showed that as the number of employees, with a rise of 188 per cent since 1946. Of the 19 banks assisted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the last five years, the FBI said 10 suffered from defalcations.

The FDIC said that 600 criminal embargoes or similar shortages were reported last year. More than 100 of these bank officers and employees were involved, with the most of the offenders consisting of bank officers and employees of local unions and savings associations, with a rise of 188 per cent since 1946. Of the 19 banks assisted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the last five years, the FBI said 10 suffered from defalcations.

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FILMS OFFERED

Washington.—Two films of interest to labor organizations, produced by the Department of the Army and now available from army film libraries for public showings on a non-profit basis.

One film, "Communism, Smooth," was designed for internal use in the Armed Forces Education Program, but it is of particular interest to labor because of its own labor background, which makes it a valuable film to eliminate the Communists from labor unions.

The other film was in Armed Forces Screen Report 113, "Industrial Mobilization." This picture shows the necessity of increased production and defense necessary to produce the programs of war and to maintain a stable civilian economy. It contains many clear instructions on how to get films by contacting Office of Public Information, Department of Defense, Washington, D. C.

More in 1953

The nation's farms will produce slightly more food this year than in 1952. The nation's overall forecast of the Department of Agriculture.

There should be more beef and veal, chicken, margarine, fresh and frozen vegetables, frozen fruits, fruit juices, and sweet potatoes, but probably less pork, eggs, turkey and butter.

Prices?

It predicts higher prices for turkeys, eggs, butter, bread, and some other cereal products, dry beans and canned vegetables. Prices may drop somewhat for beef and veal (particularly the lower grades), lamb and mutton, chicken, fish, frozen foods, fresh vegetables. Prices of most other foods will remain at 1952's high level.

Rules for Food Buying

Here are some suggestions for food buyers that will help you get more value from every food dollar:

1. Make your own selection of perishables.
2. Don't handle fruits and vegetables carelessly.
3. Remember that the lowest prices aren't always the best.
4. Order in quantities for low prices but observe quality and condition carefully.
5. Look to buy the fruits and vegetables in season in your area.
6. Make sure that containers hold full measure.
7. Try to get the latest information on market prices and available supplies through your newspaper and food programs on radio and TV.
8. Look for U. S. Grades on such products as meats and eggs as helpful guides to quality.

Food Hints

To prevent curdling when cooking with eggs, add hot liquids or a mixture to the beaten eggs a little at a time.

When you buy ham, find out from the butcher or the label on the ham whether it needs soaking before cooking. Many hams of mild cure on the market today need no soaking.

You can soften the skin of baked sweet potatoes if you rub a little fat on them before baking.

When you are shopping for turnips, look for those that are smooth and firm with few leaf scars around the crown, and with very few shrubs roots at the base.

We need intelligence at all levels of our national life, so that the answers to the most urgent needs of the day may be based on insight and understanding. A mistake caused by narrowness or ignorance may be just as dangerous to our national security as the most carelessly planted of a Fifth Column, the Court Justice William O. Douglas.

Marriage—the greatest cause of divorce.
Voluntary Health Scheme Proposed (Continued from page 1)

mission proposed a series of steps needed to improve and expand the nation's aflatoxic schemes. The report, covering each of the three plans, was published in the Social Security Bulletin for December 1952. It shows the details of private expenditure for all kinds of medical services and commodities, estimates of income loss due to sickness, and the premiums and benefits paid for all kinds of private health insurance.

High Cost Shown

The combined total of private expenditures for medical care and loss of income due to sickness was $14,356 billion in 1951 and $24 billion in premiums for insurance against these private sickness costs and annual indemnity benefits. The difference of $600 million, the net cost of the insurance, equalled one-fourth of the premiums or one-third of the expenditures.

The study shows that for all kinds of medical care the nation spent about $5,356 billion and received $1,553 million in insurance benefits, or 13.8 per cent of these private insurance benefits. The difference for medical costs have more than doubled in the four years, but the expenditure for total medical bills met by insurance have not increased proportionately.

Of the income loss due to sickness, amounting to $5.4 billion in 1951, 8.4 per cent was covered by insurance benefits of $469 million.

Uninsured

If the estimated sickness costs are restricted to the kinds which are ordinarily covered by insurance policies in 1951 was $10.6 billion. All private health insurance paid for one-sixth of these total medical bills, amounting to $600 million. The portion that was uninsured varied with the type of sickness covered. For example, hospitalization insurance benefits of $897 million covered 36 per cent of the $2,471 billion of private expenditures for hospital care, leaving 64 per cent to be paid without insurance. Physician bills amounted to $2,447 billion, and insurance payments were $456 million, leaving 83 per cent uninsured. For local, state, and federal programs through the common types of insurance policies amounted to $3,562 million, and insurance benefits were $456 million, leaving 77 per cent not covered by insurance.

The Lowna 버치 ure Company who have signed up for member-