

AFL President Requests Revisions in T-H Law

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—AFL President George Meany today asked Congress for what amounts to practically a repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

In a sweeping indictment of the seven-year-old law, which he called "unjustifiably oppressive," the AFL's new president told the House Labor Committee:

Enslavement Fight Seen By Parties

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—The lines were drawn up today for a possible out-and-out fight between Republicans and Democrats over the resolution condemning Russia for enslavement of free peoples.

Secretary of State Dulles, sponsor of the original proposal on behalf of President Eisenhower, has said it would be better to have no action at all on the subject than to turn out a split decision which the Soviets could interpret to the world as a division in American views. Such a fight might still be averted, but Democratic statements sounded like the chance was a slim one.

Democrats Vote Against

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee laid out the battle line—and produced a party-line split of its own—by writing into the measure an amendment which says Congress is expressing no opinion as to the "validity or invalidity" of long-controverted wartime agreements with Russia by President Roosevelt and Truman. Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R-NJ) offered the new language.

The vote on that revision, and on approval of the resolution as amended, was 8-6. The six were all Democrats.

Oppose Revision

In the original version the Reds would simply have been denounced for perversion of agreement which resulted in enslavement of peoples behind the Iron Curtain.

Democratic leaders in both the Senate and the House had approved the original form, and opposed any revision that would amount to criticism of the agreements themselves.

A number of Democrats argued today that the amendment finally adopted "emasculated" the resolution as a propaganda weapon by throwing into doubt the validity of the pacts Russia is accused of breaking.

State to Air Cost Cut Plan

HARRISBURG, March 3 (AP)—Pennsylvania's general assembly got set today to give pin-pointed public hearings to proposals for cutting 100 million dollars from the cost of the state government.

A committee of 30 senators and representatives was named to make a page-by-page study—with the public looking on—of the bulky Chesterman Committee reports.

Those reports, prepared under direction of Francis J. Chesterman, Philadelphia, recommended a broad re-organization of state agencies, including a number of consolidations.

"We're prepared for a long siege," commented Sen. Rowland B. Mahany, Republican floor leader. He said the hearings would last at least a month.

1. The closed shop, under which employment depends on prior union membership, should be legalized.

2. Injunctions of all kinds should be stricken from the law, including 80-day bans on strikes which affect the national safety.

3. Some types of secondary boycotts should be allowed. Meany called these boycotts "time-honored activities traditionally carried on to protect established labor standards and to assist other unions." The Taft-Hartley Act forbids them.

4. The anti-Communist oath requirement "reduces unionists to the status of second class citizenship" and should be eliminated. Meany said the provision is not "ferreting out Communists from unions."

The Taft-Hartley Act forbids unions to use the facilities of the National Labor Relations Board unless their officers sign the non-Communist oath.

5. Unions should be allowed to make political contributions.

6. Extend collective bargaining rights to large groups of farm employees, not covered by the act.

Meany's appearance before the committee, headed by Rep. McConnell (R-Penn.), was the first testimony of organized labor in the committee's hearings on the law. The hearings are due to run well into April.

Hero's Welcome Given To Returning Van Fleet

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—Gen. James A. Van Fleet returned to a hero's welcome at the White House today and held to his belief that the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea is invincible.

The strapping 60-year-old general was closeted alone with President Eisenhower for five minutes, which presumably gave the chief executive little opportunity to sound out Van Fleet at that time on his ideas for ending the long-stalemated Korean War.

Then a parade of the nation's top military chieftains, including the veteran Gen. George C. Marshall, filed in and joined the discussion for another 2 minutes before the group went to lunch.

Later, Van Fleet told newsmen the things he talked about with Eisenhower and the military high command were strictly "confidential."

He is scheduled to begin a round of congressional quiz sessions at an open hearing before the House Armed Services Committee tomorrow, Chairman Short (R-Mo.) said. Van Fleet had agreed to testify publicly with as full information as possible without violating security.

Bombarded with newsmen's questions, Van Fleet ducked a direct reply when asked whether it would require heavy reinforcements for the United Nations to lash out on the offensive in Korea.

The general, who pricked congressional ears several weeks ago by saying the Eighth Army "certainly" could undertake a successful offensive now, answered the questions in these words:

"I'm certainly never going to admit that the Eighth Army could be defeated. The American Army has never been defeated and it never will be defeated. Those are my sentiments."

Some members of Congress

Stevenson Wins 'Snickers Award' By a Landslide

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—Adlai Stevenson ran up a landslide victory over a squad of Washington politicians today to win the "Snickers Award" of the National Association of Gagwriters.

His quips during his unsuccessful Democratic campaign for the presidency last fall were adjudged superior to the output of former Vice President Alben W. Barkley, former White House military aide Harry Vaughan, George Allen, Mrs. Perle Mesta, minister to Luxembourg, Sen. Charles W. Tobey (R-NH), Mike DiSalle—and even Harry S. Truman.

A scroll is being prepared by the gagwriters, with headquarters in New York, for presentation to Stevenson during the eighth annual National Laugh Week, which starts April Fool's Day. Getting it to him will be a problem. Stevenson sailed from San Francisco yesterday for a four-month trip around the world.

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Opposition Blocks Vote for Mossadegh

TEHRAN, Iran, March 3 (AP)—Premier Mohammed Mossadegh's opposition boycotted a Parliament meeting today and blocked a vote of confidence in his struggle for power with youthful Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi.

With the exception of sporadic demonstrations by Communists, Tehran was relatively free from violence. Police ended one threat by cordoning off Parliament Square to prevent a mass rally called by a Communist-front group, "The National Organization to Combat Imperialism."

Kashani Orders Boycott

The scheduled Parliament meeting had promised a showdown between Mossadegh and Ayatollah Seyed Abolghassem Kashani, powerful Moslem religious leader who is speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Kashani swung the support of his fanatical followers to the Shah last week when it appeared the Premier might force the Shah to leave the country.

Kashani ordered his deputies to boycott the session after Mossadegh's Army staff installed a new chief of guards at the Parliament building. He contended the change left the deputies without proper protection.

Deputies Prepare Bill

A bloc of 28 Mossadegh deputies has been camping in the building since Tehran's latest riots erupted Saturday. But with Kashani's order keeping his supporters away, Parliament lacked a quorum to do business.

The Premier's deputies were prepared to submit a single article bill intended to restore Mossadegh's power and prestige, badly shaken when pro-Shah demonstrators roamed the streets and even chased Mossadegh from his home in his pajamas.

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McCarthy Group Seeks Loyalty Files

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—The Senate investigations subcommittee went after the loyalty files of two State Department employees today, contending that White House orders making them secret already have been violated. Chairman McCarthy (R-Wis.) issued subpoenas for the files of Theodore Kagan and Edmund Schechter, both of whom hold senior positions under the U.S. high Commissioner in Germany.

Whether the State Department will relinquish them remained to be seen. The executive order forbidding congressional access to security files was issued by former President Truman, and the Eisenhower administration has let it stand.

UN Planes Fire-Bomb Red Bases

SEOUL, Wednesday, March 4 (AP)—Allied fighter-bombers Tuesday flattened two Red centers near Manchuria with fire bombs and high explosives, touching off fierce air battles in which U.S. Sabres probably shot down one MIG and damaged five more, the Air Force said.

The renewed air clashes, after a lull due to bad weather, overshadowed light skirmishes along the soggy battle front.

The Eighth Army reported four Allied raiding parties stabbed at the Reds before dawn and left 40 Chinese Reds dead or wounded in the Kumwha sector of the Central Front. Republic of Korea troops closed to within hand grenade range in all four raids.

U.S. Air Force Secretary Talbot, accompanied by retired Gen. Carl "Tooey" Spaatz, flew the length of the quiescent 155-mile battle line in an unarmed Constellation. Twelve Sabres flew protective cover.

No Red war planes were sighted and no Communist antiaircraft fire was directed at Talbot's plane, pilots said.

Off the Korean east coast, the Seventh Fleet flagship Missouri swept 140 miles north of the 38th Parallel and blasted Communist coastal positions with its powerful 16-inch rifles. The Navy described the battleship's strike as "heavy."

Nationalist Chinese On Rampage in Burma

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 3 (AP)—Burma's chief delegate to the UN received orders today to return home for consultations on Burma's troubles with thousands of Nationalist Chinese troops reported on a rampage in Northern Burma. The area adjoins Red China.

Group Okays Hawaii

WASHINGTON, March 3 (AP)—The Hawaii statehood bill won approval from the House interior and insular affairs committee today but the group turned down by one vote a move to add Alaska.



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