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SOME PROGRESS TOWARD A UNITY MINE SCALE CONFERENCE STARTED

FURTHER TALKS ARE DELAYED UNTIL THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH

Congress of Industrial Organization and American Federation of Labor Peace Parleys.

New York.—With labor peace negotiators reportedly deadlocked on union jurisdictional questions, the unity conferences recessed on Tuesday for 10 days during which the American Federation of Labor committee will seek clarification of Federation policies.

Chairman Harry C. Bates of the AFL committee announced his committee will go to Washington to confer with President William Green and it was reported, without confirmation, that the executive council may be called into special session or polled privately concerning developments in the peace conferences inaugurated by President Roosevelt last week.

It was said authoritatively after the fifth session, which lasted two hours on Tuesday night, that no peace agreement was yet in sight between the AFL and CIO organizations.

It was reported that the chief stumbling block at this point came in discussion of the AFL offer to return charters to the CIO unions formerly in the AFL, and to admit the CIO unions into the Federation as a body after jurisdictional quarrels had been settled between the new CIO affiliates and the AFL crafts in which they conflict.

The CIO negotiators were reported to have raised the question of whether the original CIO unions would be expected to take the charters they held when they left the AFL or whether their jurisdiction would be broadened because they have entered new fields since the 1936 split.

SIMON NIEBAUER, CHEST TWP., CALLED BY DEATH

Simon Niebauer, 55, one of Cambria County's most prominent farmers, died at 3:45 Monday morning at his home in Chest Township, near St. Lawrence. Mr. Niebauer's death was attributed to a heart condition, from which he had been suffering for the past two years. He had been bedfast four months.

Simon Niebauer was a son of Michael and Barbara (Ropy) Niebauer and was born August 23, 1883, on a farm near St. Lawrence. He had been engaged in farming 25 years. Mr. Niebauer served several terms as a school director and was a road supervisor in Chest Township. He was prominent in grange activities for many years and was a silver star member of the St. Lawrence Grange.

Mr. Niebauer and Miss Stelt Kibler were married September 24, 1907, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Father Raphael of St. Lawrence. Mrs. Niebauer died July 19, 1937.

Surviving are these children: Raymond, Ebensburg, R. D.; Margaret, Helen, Bernard and Louise, all at home; Anna Marie, a teacher in the Chest Township schools; and Ethel, a student at Mt. Aloysius Academy, Cresson. A son died in infancy.

Also surviving are these brothers and sisters: Mary, wife of Frank Kruse, St. Bonifacius; Mrs. Catherine Fronheiser, Akron, O.; Barbara, wife of Michael Yahner, Detroit, Mich.; Anthony, St. Lawrence; Regina, Cresson; Sister Mary Barbara, Mt. Aloysius Academy, Cresson; Benjamin and John, both of Hastings; and Margaret, wife of Dr. Francis Leahy, Lilly. A brother and two sisters preceded him in death.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 o'clock this morning in the St. Lawrence Catholic Church by Rev. Father Lawrence. Interment will be in the church cemetery under the direction of J. Edw. Stevens, Carrolltown mortician.

CORRECTION IN THE AMERICAN STORE AD

In the American Stores Co. advertisement, appearing on page 2 of this issue, California Baby Lima Beans are quoted to sell at 2 pounds for 9c, whereas they should read "2 pounds for 11 cents." Fancy Blue Rose Rice appears on the ad priced at 2 pounds for 19 cents, and should have read "2 pounds for 9 cents."

Every county in Iowa and all but three counties in Illinois are included in the Corn Belt's commercial corn-producing area.

CONGRESS GETS MORE PROTESTS ON WAGNER ACT

Hearings Indefinitely Postponed Pending A. F. of L. C. I. O. Unity Discussions.

Washington.— Though CIO-AFL peace negotiations stole the news spotlight, labor's protest against any changes in the Wagner Labor Relations Act continued to mount.

Hearings of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, originally scheduled for March 16, have been indefinitely postponed pending outcome of the unity discussions. Unions, nevertheless, kept up their barrage of mail and telegrams to Congressmen and Senators, practically all of them attacking amendment of the Act.

The fight against the proposed change was redoubled when it became known that the reactionary New York Chamber of Commerce had endorsed the Walsh amendments, and that Sen. Burke, of Nebraska, arch-foe of the National Labor Relations Board, was helping the National Association of Manufacturers to distribute Tory propaganda against the Act.

In the House, meanwhile, a new amendment bill which would wipe out the present National Labor Relations Board as it now stands, was filed with the House Labor Committee.

Other developments:

1. A survey showed enormous gains made by CIO affiliates with the protection of the Act and the NLRB.
2. An A. F. of L. Committee to aid C. I. O. Hearst strikers in Chicago warned the Illinois Congressional delegation that amendments would be considered an action hostile to labor.
3. Similar action was taken by CIO groups in Portland, Oregon, and New York State, while the Aluminum Workers of America launched an active campaign among all affiliated locals to build support for the law as it now stands.

HILLMAN, MURRAY HELP A. F. L. STRIKERS

Washington.— Presidents Philip Murray and Sidney Hillman picked their union solidarity with AFL strikers when the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Alliance, AFL affiliate, called strikes in 13 major Washington hotels last week.

The two CIO leaders in Washington for labor peace conferences, immediately moved out of the hotels in which they had been registered. Murray discovered the strike, which had begun at dawn as a result of a refusal of the employers to sign a new contract, when he came down into the lobby in the morning.

Scorning the services of a scab elevator man, he walked four flights of stairs, packed his bags and walked out. Hillman was notified of the strike when the headwaiter offered to serve him breakfast. He immediately left the hotel, sending a messenger boy back for his luggage.

MINE ORGANIZER FEENEY, 62, DIES

Charleroi.— William J. Feeny, 62, international organizer of the United Mine Workers of America, died suddenly last Thursday of pneumonia.

The veteran union leader who once served as president of District No. 4, was stricken last Saturday after returning from a conference in Harrisburg.

He began sinking Thursday morning and could not be roused despite use of an oxygen tent and the new pneumonia serum.

SAFETY UNIT HOLDS MEET AT EBENSBURG

Francis Feehan of Pittsburgh, a representative of the United States Bureau of Mines who recently attended the world safety council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, was the principal speaker at the monthly meeting of the Cambria County unit of the Joseph Holmes Safety Council held last Friday evening in the courthouse at Ebensburg. Over 100 persons attended the session. In the course of his address Mr. Feehan stated that the safety code has developed to the extent that a universal code soon is expected to be formulated.

Ira Bradley of Cresson presided at the meeting. Moving pictures of safety work at the No. 4 mine of the Johnstown Coal and Coke Company in Portage were shown to the assemblage. W. A. Filer, state mine inspector for the district, spoke briefly.

The next meeting of the council will be held in the courthouse April 14.

PRODUCTION OF SOFT COAL STRIKES A NEW LOW MARK

Harrisburg.— The State Mining Department reported last week bituminous coal production in Pennsylvania last year tumbled to the second lowest mark in the 20th Century but did not blame the fuel oil competition for the drop.

A survey by the department showed a production of 77 million tons of soft coal last year, a drop of 33,500,000 tons from the 1937 output.

"It is inconceivable that the competition of fuel oil was responsible," said Deputy Secretary Joseph J. Walsh in referring to one of the reasons given by the industry for its plight. "It requires 175 gallons of fuel oil

to equal the heat of a ton of coal. Against the nationwide picture, that would mean about 400 million barrels more fuel oil used in 1938. I don't think anybody believes oil increased that much."

The department survey showed the Pennsylvania slump reflected a nationwide downward trend with national production about 100 million tons below 1937.

The only other time this century that production in the state dropped below the 1938 figure was in 1932. Fayette County showed the heaviest loss—a 50 per cent decline from the 1937 output of 10,800,000 tons.

HIGHER PRICE FOR COAL IS EXPECTED TO BE REQUESTED

Washington.— Indications the coal industry may look to higher prices, were contained in testimony of Percy Tetlow, chairman of the Bituminous Coal Commission, revealed last week by the House Appropriations Committee.

Tetlow outlined to the committee a new schedule of prices which the commission is advancing, to increase by 37 million dollars the annual paid price of bituminous coals, and to thus relieve the "long-suffering coal industry."

The new scale would increase the price of coal on an average of 11 cents a ton, it was disclosed.

Officials of the commission described the increases as "the only fair thing." A spokesman said the com-

mission is anxious to see righted "the terrible economic conditions which brought starvation to coal miners in many sections and caused the industry to lose tremendously since 1926."

An average loss of 11 cents has over a long period been chalked up by the industry for every ton mined, it was reported.

The greater portion of the increase is expected to be borne by industrial consumers who, the commission pointed out, have, by their concentrated purchasing power, been able to "dictate" the lowest prevailing prices for themselves.

Consequently, home, or domestic users of small grade coal will likely experience only a fractional increase in their retail cost, the commission stated.

BOXING EXHIBITIONS TO BE HELD IN PATTON MARCH 27

The Patton Athletic Club boxers, under the management of Pete Pandola, will stage six boxing bouts with twelve of the best "Leather Pushers" of Patton and vicinity. A capacity crowd is expected to attend the first show of this kind to be held in Patton for some time.

The show will be held on the third floor of the Good Building in the Italian Club Rooms.

The feature bout will bring together two of Patton's best known amateurs, who have records of winning all of their fights within the past two years, and one of their confident of winning again in Johnstown on March 16th. They are Willie Driscoll and Charley Selridge, both fighters weighing 138 pounds, and anxious to meet in a real battle on March 27th to decide the bet-

ter of the two. This bout alone will be more than worth the donation asked. The following boxers will also appear in the other five bouts, with opponents to be announced later: "Mutt" Stevens, a heavyweight, who will also fight on the Johnstown card on March 16th; This boy has dynamite in both hands—Bud Tinnick, 140 pounds; Joe Svrdergol, 142 pounds; Kid Rogers, 115 pounds; Conky Zungali, 115 pounds, and "Rabbit Ears" Gelermino, 127 pounds.

Tickets are now on sale at the Outlet Store, Patton, or from any member of the Patton Athletic Club or the Italian Club.

A donation of 25 cents will be asked for adults, and 10 cents for children under 16 years. The first bout will begin at 8:30.

A. F. L. INTO THE G. O. P.

By Kenneth G. Crawford In "The Nation"

ALTHOUGH expediency and plausibility are on the President's side in his effort to bring peace to the labor movement, it will be no simple welding job the unite the A. F. L. and C. I. O. The last time it was tried, without success, the sole issue was jurisdictional. Both Green and Lewis were going along with the New Deal. Their organizations, making the most of unprecedented opportunities under the Wagner Act, were gratefully gathering in membership cards. Labor was divided but on the march.

Since then more serious complications have set in. It is no longer merely a matter of who shall organize whom. The cleavages between the parent organization and its offspring goes deep into ideological as well as procedural bedrock. The trend of the C. I. O. has been to the left of the New Deal; it has demanded heavier relief expenditures and radical recovery outlays than those Roosevelt has approved. The A. F. L., meanwhile, has veered sharply to the right, joining the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce in advocating appeasement of business at the expense of the unemployed.

But for the President's personal intervention and his apparent willingness to serve as mediator, the latest peace project would be hopeless. As it is, there is small chance for more than an armed truce or a superficial reconciliation. If it is the President's idea to save business the annoyances incidental to labor rivalries, he may succeed. If he is trying to unify labor as a political force, for its effect on Congress now and on the election in 1940, he will almost certainly be dis-

appointed. He has come too late. The ruling clique of the A. F. of L. has already gone over to the Republicans. At its meeting in Miami the Executive Council issued the statement that might have been written by the N. A. M. It deprecated "fear, lack of confidence, and distrust" on the part of business, deplored "various forms of public spending," and recoiled the idea of maintaining "an army of unemployed as wards of the government." Its essence was well expressed by the headline: "Green Raps New Deal's Recovery and Relief Policy."

Thus the voice of labor became an echo for the lament of big business. The Wolls, the Hutchesons and Freys reverted to type. Always at home in the Hoover camp, they do not usually worry to much about the unemployed and the unorganized. The depth of their concern for the under-dog could have been easily plumbed by anyone who watched them go perfectionist and hold out for a wage-hour bill so inflexible that they knew Congress would not pass it. Now the reaction has set in, and they can abandon such subtleties. But how can Lewis and the C. I. O., champions of the unskilled and the unemployed, sign on with this crew?

The differences between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. at this stage are best illustrated by the current fight over the proposed amendments to the Wagner Act, a law which has doubled labor-union membership since its passage in 1935. In its reckless courtship of reactionary business, the A. F. of L. has proposed, through Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, a series of amendments that would make this law useless at best and a deadly weapon against labor at worst. The Walsh

CIO URGES U. S. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Senate Committee Hears Labor Demand A Guarantee of Its Rights.

Washington.— CIO approval of the creation of a Federal Department of Public Works including WPA and PWA, and of increases in Social Security benefits, was expressed by Ralph Hetzel, Jr., CIO Unemployment Director, and Alice Liverright, member of the CIO Social Security Committee in testimony at the Senate hearing on the Byrnes bill, S. 1265.

Both bills contained suggestions for improvements in the bill, following lines set forth by the CIO in previous policy statements on public works and social security.

CIO PROGRAM

Hetzel's statement quoted five basic points for a public works program laid down by the CIO Convention at Pittsburgh last November:

1. All workers should be employed on work suited to their needs and skill.
2. Projects should be socially necessary and productive.
3. Jobs should be given for all without humiliating means tests.
4. Funds should be appropriated to meet current needs as they arise.
5. Guarantees of collective bargaining rights.

Following these points, Hetzel urged that he Byrnes measure should provide "employment and a means of livelihood for unemployed workers at times when as long as private industry cannot use their services."

UNION RIGHTS URGED

Guarantees of collective bargaining rights were also asked, both to allow workers "to form, join or assist labor organization, to bargain collectively through organizations of their own choosing, or to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

At the same time, Hetzel urged "that no contract shall be awarded to any person who at the time of such an award shall be interfering with, restraining or coercing his employees in the exercise of their rights."

WHITE COLLAR PROJECTS

Protection of certain types of WPA projects unprovided for in the Byrnes bill was urged. These include WPA projects for women, clerical and white collar workers, musicians, teachers, artists, etc. Hetzel also pointed out that protection for unemployed farm workers should be included, "upon projects that will permit them to remain in the community where they reside."

FINALLY, HETZEL URGED

Finally, Hetzel urged, in the name of the CIO, that the bill include provision to make full use of the U. S. Employment Service, and that this be kept as at present under the U. S. Labor Dept. "Labor is strongly opposed to taking the Employment Service out of the Labor Dept.," he said.

CLYDE S. SLICK, IS NAMED MEMBER OF APPRENTICE BOARD

Governor James on Monday included the name of Clyde S. Slick, Johnstown printer, on the State Apprenticeship Board, set up under the federal wage and hour law to consult with the administrator at Washington on conditions in Pennsylvania regarding exemptions in the apprentice class to the wage and hour minimums.

TEN CAMBRIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DISTRESS

The financial distress of Pennsylvania School Districts, described as the most serious since 1922, particularly in the coal mining counties, has become a major concern of the legislature. The special two million dollar current biennial appropriation for allocation to hard hit districts was exhausted in November. More than 200 boards of directors are clamoring for a deficiency allowance to tide their districts over until the new state fiscal period opens June 1st, when another two million dollar appropriation becomes available for distribution if the assembly approves Gov. James' budget recommendation.

Ten of the Cambria county school districts have filed requests for aid.

MINERS AND OPERATORS AWAIT SIGNING OF PACT BUT THERE'S MUCH TO DO

Union Asks Annual Wage of \$1,000 to \$1,300; 50c Daily Wage Increase.

During the next fifteen days there will be attempted in a suite of hotel rooms in New York City a settlement of a matter which will have an important bearing upon economic conditions of Cambria, Indiana, Clearfield and Somerset counties—the new wage scale for bituminous miners in the Appalachian field.

In the opening conference Tuesday, UMW spokesmen demanded a guaranteed annual wage of from \$1,000 to \$1,300 for nearly 600,000 soft coal miners. The union asks a fifty cents per day wage increase and a guarantee of 200 working days per year.

The union's demands affect directly only the 320,000 miners in the Appalachian field, but, if granted, they likely would extend to all the country's miners. All other contracts are usually modeled after the Appalachian pact.

Phil Murray censured the operators on Tuesday in presenting the UMW suggestions for contract improvements, which he labelled as "proposals, not ultimatums" and "a basis for negotiations."

"The United Mine Workers of America contend that if there is any chaos in the industry respecting its marketing practices, that chaos and dissension is directly attributable to a lack of proper organization among the coal operators," Murray declared.

"We realize that the wage demands mean an increase in the cost of coal production but mine workers are human beings. They live. I know that coal operators can't eat losses. Nor can the mine workers live on wind." The coal operators will answer on Wednesday, with Charles O'Neill, of New York, as their spokesman. The producers are expected to counter with suggestions for a wage cut and hours increase.

COUNTY SELLS NOTE ISSUE AT NEW LOW RATE OF INTEREST

At the record-breaking low interest rate of 5 1/2 per cent, Cambria County last Friday borrowed \$350,000 on tax anticipation notes to be dated March 15, maturing December 1. The successful bid, one of five, was submitted by Fisher, MacEwan & Company Inc., Philadelphia. It was immediately accepted by County Commissioners John Thomas, Jr., and Frank P. Hollen.

The interest rate is the lowest ever obtained by Cambria County on a tax anticipation note issue. Last year the county sold \$350,000 worth of six-month tax anticipation notes and paid an interest of 9 1/2 per cent. Proceeds of the new loan will be used for general operating expenses.

Other bids submitted follow: Hariman, Ripley & Company, Philadelphia with an interest rate of .60 percent and a premium of .05; Halsey Stuart & Company, Philadelphia, interest rate of .70 percent and a premium of \$11; Singer, Deane & Scribner, Pittsburgh, interest rate .75 percent and premium of \$27, and C. C. Collings & Company, Philadelphia, interest rate of .84 percent and a premium of \$11.

COUNTY SCHOOLMEN HEAR LEGISLATIVE TALK BY ASSEMBLYMAN ANDREWS

Assemblyman H. G. Andrews spoke to supervising principals of Cambria County schools at the March meeting of the schoolmen last Friday night in the Brandon Hotel, Spangler.

"Principles Underlying Sound Educational Legislation," was the topic of Andrews' address. He discussed a minimum standard which would afford equal educational opportunities to all school children in the state. An open forum followed his talk.

E. W. Overberger, of Cresson, president of the principals' group, presided during the business session, during which the schoolmen voted to approve a music festival to be held Saturday, May 20, in Ebensburg-Cambria High School, Ebensburg.

The festival is being arranged by music supervisors of the county. The affair will not conflict with the Pennsylvania Forensic and Music League competition in the county, it was announced. The festival will not be competitive and all schools will be given an opportunity to participate.

Short talks were given by Dr. Arthur M. Stull, superintendent of county schools, and Daniel L. Auchenbach, assistant superintendent.

Scotland is credited with being foremost in Britain to use films in education.