

AFL SPLIT WIDE OPEN OVER THE AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER LAW

There is a big split in the American Federation of Labor over the demand for amendment of the Wagner Labor Relations Law that is being so loudly proclaimed by the high command of the AFL. A whole flock of amendments were prepared by the Federation and these were introduced in the senate by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts. If these amendments were adopted by Congress they would destroy the usefulness of the labor relations law. They would restore the company union which is now outlawed. They would give to employers the right to dictate to their employees what union they should join and whether they should join any union. It seems strange that any labor organization like the American Federation of Labor would slap labor in the face by proposing such changes in the law. These amendments would take away all the rights and benefits that were given to the workers by the Wagner Law.

From the very start, the Congress

of Industrial Organizations and Labor's Non-Partisan League have opposed the amendments and denounced them as dangerous for labor. Both the Congress of Industrial Organizations and Labor's Non-Partisan League are carrying on a vigorous campaign to defeat the amendments.

But opposition is not confined to these organizations. For the Machinists' Union and the Pattern Makers' Union, but being a part of the American Federation of Labor, have come out boldly against the amendments, thus causing a rift in the American Federation of Labor that may be hard to heal.

These two American Federation of Labor Unions have notified William Green and his boss, John J. Frey of their position.

Letters written by the union officials assert that the proposed amendments would weaken the National Labor Relations Act, strengthen company unions, result in "interminable conflicts in the courts, be of inestimable advantage to employers and constitute danger to unions in their organization.

Provision after provision in the amendments, the officials argued, gave jurisdiction to the federal district courts which now had no jurisdiction in the Wagner act cases, and widened the opportunity of these courts to interfere in labor disputes.

"I am quite sure that our membership would not support the amendments as proposed", F. D. Laudemann general vice president of the machinists, wrote to Mr. Frey.

George Q. Lynch, president of the pattern makers, in a letter to Mr. Green, asserted that his organization reserved the right to oppose any amendments it considered inimical to its best interests.

The correspondence of the union officials bore out a report that members of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at their recent meeting in Miami, had grumbled because Mr. Green had failed to submit to the council a copy of the amendments in advance of their introduction by Mr. Walsh.

Some of the council members felt that they had been "put on the spot" with respect to the amendments.

The American Federation of Labor amendments permitting an employer to express his opinion on union matters, according to Mr. Laudemann, gave the employer an opportunity to express his disfavor of labor organizations or express his favoritism toward independent unions, which we will have no opportunity to prove are company unions and will give him a tremendous advantage to propagandize employees against unionism.

Mr. Laudemann predicted that another of the American Federation of Labor Amendments would open the way to innumerable injunction suits and "tie up cases before the board."

Mr. Lynch in his letter to Mr. Green questioned the advisability of an amendment which he said would permit employers to "indulge in unrestricted propaganda, particularly just before plant elections."

Mr. Lynch, asserting that some Federation of Labor officials opposed "the whole principle of governmental assistance to labor," said that he was "apprehensive about the advice of our mutually esteemed friend, John P. Frey in this connection."

He said that his union would oppose any amendments "giving broader power to employers to practice intimidation" that stopped to physical or economic coercion.

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Triplets Celebrate Fourth Birthday



The Van Arday triplets, Caesar, Franklin and Conrad (front to rear) gave a party recently for the DeMellier triplets, Ann, Betty and Carol (front to rear) at the Roosevelt, Long Island, home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Caesar L. Van Arday. The occasion was the fourth birthday of the Van Ardays. The girls are children of Mr. and Mrs. George DeMellier of Wantagh, L. I.

"ANTIS" WOULD SMASH LABOR LAWS NOW IN FORCE IN SOME STATES

Organized labor is girding itself for a real battle in various state legislatures where the biggest crop of anti-labor bills in years has been introduced. If enacted, many of them would wreck or destroy unions and do away with many hard won rights that labor now possesses.

Labor leaders and progressives outside labor's ranks voiced alarm over the trend and organized their full strength to fight the vicious proposals.

The repressive measures were declared to have been inspired in many states by organizations such as the misnamed "Associated Farmers," operating as "masked fronts" for labor hating employers.

Because of this wave of dangerous legislation demands for the continuation of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee grew in volume.

How many of the anti-labor bills will become law remained uncertain, but political experts pointed out that in the main the state legislatures are now more reactionary than they have been at any time since 1930.

In at least a half dozen states, so-called "labor relations acts" have been introduced, carrying some good features, but concealing under innocent sounding phraseology provisions which it is claimed, could be used to smash organized labor.

Some of these trick clauses would curb the right to strike, forbid boycotts of unfair employers and prevent pickets from "interfering" with strike-breakers who take their jobs. Such acts have been introduced in the legislatures of California, Michigan, New Jersey, Wisconsin and other states.

One of the worst is up in Wisconsin. It was drafted by the so-called "Council of Agriculture," accused of being linked with the "Associated Farmers." It would repeal the present

state labor disputes act enacted during the LaFollette regime, legalize "company unions" and virtually outlaw strikes. In Pennsylvania likewise an attempt is being made to emasculate the "little New Deal" adopted by the Earle administration.

The old reactionary crowd in the Indiana Legislature have a number of bills pending which would adversely affect labor conditions in that state. The "antis" have attempted to repeal the full crew law which was put thru by the Standard Railroad Organizations after ten years of battling. However, the efforts were abortive and those seeking the repeal were beaten.

In Oregon, which already has a law that straitjackets labor, two other vicious bills are before the legislature. One would outlaw closed shop contracts and another would penalize pickets as "rioters" if they fail to disperse at police orders.

One of the most amazing measures has been entered in the South Carolina legislature. It would require unions to report all dues collections monthly to the state, which would then levy a 50 per cent tax on the proceeds.

FINAL HEARINGS FOR COAL PRICES ARE SET BY BOARD FOR MAR. 27

The National Bituminous Coal Commission has set March 27th as the date to begin its final hearing relative to weighted average costs, on which minimum coal prices for the bituminous product must be based under the Bituminous Coal Act.

The commission announced that all other phases of preparing the minimum prices and marketing rules and regulations for final hearing and promulgation were progressing rapidly. Representatives of all the district producers' boards in the United States except those which have completed this phase of the work, are participat-

ing in "coordination" meetings in Washington, D. C. This is the last step of preparing the prices and rules for final hearing.

Any adjustments in the price structure that might be necessary after the final hearing on costs can be made before the prices are submitted for final hearing, it was said.

Commission officials said that setting the final hearing on costs for the 27th of March will in no way delay the promulgation of prices, and that the intervening time will be devoted to other phases of the work that must be done before the prices and marketing rules are established. This was done to grant certain producers, who stated they were not amply prepared to go forward at this time, additional time in which to make ready for a final hearing on costs.

PORTAGE SPORTSMEN TO PROPAGATE GAME

A meeting of the Community Rod and Gun Club, newly organized sportsmen's club of the Portage vicinity, was held in the Municipal Building, Portage, last week. A large number of new members enrolled in the club.

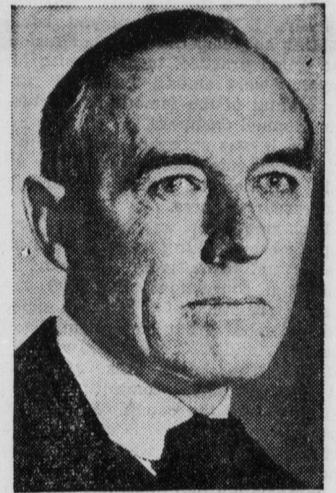
A committee consisting of George Richardson, chairman; John Gouse, Quay Shull, John G. Eby and Ernest Singleton presented a constitution and by-laws which were adopted by the club. It was agreed to accept junior members into the club who have not reached their 16th birthday, at half fee.

Efforts are being made by the club to have a CCC camp established on Cedar Run, south of Portage. Bob's Creek and Piper's Run will be used as reserve streams by the sportsmen. The association will also try to acquire sev-

eral acres of surrounding farmland for raising of game. Five hundred ring-neck pheasants are being shipped to the club.

The club will meet every Monday at 7:30 until April 15, having secured the Moose Hall for its meeting place. Dr. J. H. Benko is president of the club and Raymond Cullen is secretary.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE



Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield, responsible for the efficiency and power of the present British fleet, has been named minister for the co-ordination of defense in the cabinet of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. He succeeds Sir Thomas Inskip.

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