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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1939

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G. O. P. LEGISLATURE TEARS AWAY MOST GAINS OF ORGANIZED WORKERS

CHANGES MADE IN STATE LABOR RELATIONS LAW

Labor Takes A Severe Slap in the Final Hours of the Hectic Harrisburg Session.

A bill setting up sharply defined limits within which employees and labor groups can carry on union activity in Pennsylvania was passed on Monday by the Legislature, which came to its final end at 6:25 a. m. on Tuesday, after an all-night session. Labor has lost ground in the session, but perhaps not as much as many of the legislators had hoped for.

"Sit down strikes" would be outlawed as an unfair labor practice and an illegal act. Employers are given the right to petition the state labor board for a collective bargaining election, under the measure. The check-off of union dues, a clause contained in many labor contracts — is prohibited, unless authorized by a secret, majority vote of the employees and written individual authorization from each employee.

"The state labor act is now really a criminal code," protested James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, AFL.

"The new bill just about nullifies the Labor Relations Act. Certainly there is no justification for these sweeping changes."

Patrick T. Fagan, president of District No. 5 of the U. M. W. A., and a member of the State Board that administers the Labor Act, declared:

"The bill destroys every vestige of advance that has been made by the worker in this state. Labor would even be better off if the entire (labor relations) act were repealed."

John A. Phillips, president of the State CIO organization, commented: "We're cut all the way down the line. It virtually wipes out all the accomplishments all the way down and makes it an anti-labor act instead of an act intended to protect the right of the worker to organize and bargain collectively."

In addition to participation in sit-down strikes, the measure declares it an "unfair labor practice" for an employer or a union or its officers:

1-To intimidate, restrain or coerce any employee by threats of force or violence or harm x x x with the intent of compelling such employee to join or to refrain from joining any labor organization.

2-To intimidate, restrain or coerce any employer by threats of violence or harm to the person of said employer x x x with the intent of compelling the employer to attend to demands, conditions, and terms of employment."

Other principal changes in the present act:

Prohibiting any officer or agent of a labor organization from intimidating or coercing any employee "by threats of force or violence."

Require the board to respect craft unions, rights to decide for themselves, by majority vote, who should be their bargaining representative.

Curtail the board's power to invalidate legal contracts between employers and employees.

Give Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Hines power to pass on the board's regulations.

The Senate struck out a provision that would have permitted an employer "to express opinions with respect to any matter of interest to employees or the public provided such expressions are not accompanied by acts of discrimination or threats."

The bill ordered a reduction in the \$9,000 salary of the three members, cutting the chairman to \$7,500 and fixing the pay of the other two members at \$7,000.

CHERRY TREE PLANS FOR OLD HOME WEEK

Cherry Tree Old Home Week celebration, postponed from the week of May 29 due to labor conditions resulting from the coal strike, will be held during the week of July 17, it was announced by members of the Cherry Tree Volunteer Fire Company, sponsors of the affair.

Plans are being made for a parade to be held each evening during the celebration. Committee chairmen are outlining a program of entertainment.

FOR SALE—Electric stove; Westinghouse; 16 months old, as good as new; \$75.00; inquire at Yegerer Apts, second floor, 565 Palmer avenue, Patton, Pa.

HONOR DEAD AT ANNUAL EVENT OF THE LEGION

Two Thousand Persons Attend Cambria County Group's Services at Sunset Park.

Cambria county's war dead were honored by approximately 2,000 persons attending the annual American Legion Memorial Service on Sunday afternoon at Sunset Park.

In the principal address, President Judge John H. McCann praised the activities and the forward movements instituted and supervised by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans' organizations.

Prayers for tolerance were issued by the judge. He urged tolerance, both racial and religious. He said there was no place in this country for intolerance, both racial and religious. He said there is no place in this country for intolerance.

In citing the history of the great wars in which the United States participated he pointed out that the world war, in which many American lives were lost, not only protected Democracy, but made the United States a world power among nations.

Necessity of adequate national defense was stressed by District Attorney Stephens Mayer, Johnstown, who shared speaking honors with Judge McCann.

"The United States entered the World War woefully unprepared and it is absolutely necessary that those men who served with the army in that war see to it that this country again is not caught in that embarrassing situation," the attorney said.

"While we do not want war, if it does come we must be ready. The American Legion and other veterans organizations are doing all in their power to prevent a repetition of that catastrophe," Attorney Mayer said.

"Although many people would have us believe that we went into the War to help munitions makers and big money interests, it is absolutely true that we went to far to save Democracy."

Seventeen of the nineteen legion posts in the county participated in the services. Special music was provided by the Spangler high school band and the Colver Boys' Band.

An exhibition drill was given by the National Championship Gallitzin Drum and Bugle Corps. The affair was sponsored by Fox-Peale Post 506, Carrolltown, and Lynn Weatherston Post, 569, Spangler.

Several patriotic selections were given by the Holy Name Glee Club of St. Benedict's Catholic church, Carrolltown under the direction of M. D. Connell.

Edward W. Green, Portage, chairman of the Cambria County Committee of the American Legion, gave an introductory address. Rev. W. W. Hall, the county committee chaplain, gave the invocation and benediction.

MURRAY SHOWS REAL ENEMIES OF WAGNER ACT

A lineup of reactionary Republicans, Tory Democrats and anti-New Deal AFL executive council members looking to defeat of the New Deal in 1940 was described as politically responsible for the drive to emasculate the Wagner Act in a coast-to-coast radio speech from Washington by Philip Murray, vice president of the CIO and chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, recently.

The same forces, Murray said, also want to keep labor divided to promote this aim. "The reactionary politicians are fully aware of the effect their amendments will have in keeping the CIO and AFL divided," he said, "but they desire to continue this labor division in the hope that it may lead to victory for reaction in 1940."

"In this hope they are joined by reactionaries on the AFL executive council who have been constantly trying to throw the AFL weight on the Tory side, regardless of the overwhelming pro-New Deal sentiment of the AFL membership."

Benefits Both Sides "There is no reason in the world why the American Federation of Labor should seek to change the Wagner Act, which has brought so much freedom and so many benefits to all working people," Murray said.

"Great gains in membership have been made by both the AFL and the CIO under the act. And if the workers in the mass production industries have voted chiefly for the modern industrial unions of the CIO, when given a choice between them and the craft unions of the AFL, this is certainly

Primary Ballot This Year Will Be Limited--Only Four Parties

Only voters registered as Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists or Socialists, will be eligible to vote for candidates for county offices at the primary to be held on Tuesday, September 12th it has been disclosed at the county commissioners' office. The Independent Citizens, Labor and Royal Oak parties will not be able to put tickets in the field for the September primaries not having polled sufficient votes either in the elections of 1937 or 1938 to gain representation.

The only tickets in the field for the only state office to be filled—justice of the supreme court to succeed Justice John W. Kephart—will be the Democratic and Republican.

The election code of 1937 reads: "Any party, or political body, one of whose candidates at either general or municipal elections preceding the primary polled at least five per cent of the largest entire vote cast for any candidate in any county, is hereby declared to be a political party in said county."

At the 1937 municipal election in this county, Cyrus W. Davis, successful candidate for sheriff, was top man in the returns, receiving 26,017 votes. On the basis of his vote the minor parties would have had to have a candidate who received at least 1,300 votes in order to qualify this year. This requirement was met by the Prohibition party as Mrs. Sarah Kennedy received 2,259 votes for jury commissioner on that ticket, and the Socialist party al-

HARD COAL MEN GET UNION SHOP IN AGREEMENT

United Mine Workers and Operators Come to Terms on Temporary Pact.

New York—Granting the union shop to one hundred thousand miners in the Pennsylvania anthracite industry, the "temporary" wage and hour pact between the hard coal operators and the United Mine Workers of America became effective on Saturday night.

The agreement will not be signed formally until it is ratified by union members in referendum next week.

President John L. Lewis of the U. M. W. of A., predicted "overwhelming support" by the mine workers.

At a final meeting of the committees of eight operators and eight union representatives, Secretary Treasurer Tom Kennedy, of the union and Major W. W. Inglis, head of the Alden Coal Co., and chairman of the operators, signed the pact.

The union shop clause gave the U. M. W. of A. exclusive bargaining rights and made union membership a condition of employment for all anthracite employees "except those in classifications recognized as 'exempt,' a group which is negligible.

The work week and wage standards were kept at present levels, including a \$4.62 minimum for "outside mine workers."

Operators' demands for penalties against illegal strikes were abandoned and it was agreed to form a permanent committee of six union representatives and six operators to function for the duration of the contract, which is two years.

20 WILL GRADUATE AT ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

St. Benedict—Twenty students received diplomas at the annual grade school commencement exercises on Friday evening of last week in the Presbyterian Church. Dr. A. M. Stull, county superintendent of schools was the principal speaker. American Legion awards were presented by Walter Conrad and Mrs. Oscar Van Kokenberg, both of Cresson.

Music for the occasion was furnished by Farabaugh's Orchestra. Presentation of gifts was in charge of Louise Leech and Paul McDevitt.

not the fault of the act," he said.

"As a matter of fact, there is every evidence that the great majority of AFL membership are fully as much opposed to amendment of the Wagner Act as are the members of the CIO."

Murray, speaking over a coast-to-coast network of the Columbia broadcasting system, pointed out that the demand for amendments to the act comes from big business in alliance with "backward-looking craft union leaders" in the AFL, who are willing to sacrifice the interests of all labor for the sake of their own petty concerns.

so gained recognition due to Matt Kolar obtaining 2,254 votes as the candidate for the same office.

In 1937 Mrs. Kennedy received 50 votes as the candidate of the Independent Citizens party and 170 as the candidate of the labor party for jury commissioner. This vote was not sufficient for these two parties to hold a place on the ballot this year. The same is true as to the candidates of the two parties in the vote cast at last year's election.

The Royal Oak party also failed to qualify in the county as James Gatins who was the candidate of the party last November for Johnstown City Assembly fell below the required five per cent.

To obtain a place on the ballot for statewide candidates the party must poll only two per cent of the largest vote cast in the state at the last general election, which in this instance, was held last year. All parties in the state, except the Democrat and Republican, have evidently fallen below the requirement as the county commissioners have been notified by Mrs. S. M. R. O'Hara, secretary of the commonwealth, that only those two parties have polled the percentage of votes required under the law.

The primary race will open officially on June 24th, when candidates may begin to obtain signatures for nominating petitions. The last day for filing petitions will be July 24.

HOUSE KILLS THE BILL HITTING JOBS OF WED TEACHER

New Tenure Law Amendments Will Put Teachers on Two Years' Probation.

Harrisburg.—The state house of representatives on Saturday night killed a bill empowering school boards to enforce rules governing "conduct" which impairs the professional usefulness of school teachers.

Defeat of the bill was accomplished by a compromise which developed after bolt on tenure law amendments was threatened. It was a major victory for the teachers.

If this measure, which had passed the senate, had been enacted into law, it would have enabled boards to fire teachers for violation of any rule the boards might make regarding personal conduct.

The bill, it was charged, really was aimed at married teachers, center of the controversy which has been waged over tenure law amendments since early in the session.

The bill was dropped from the calendar by unanimous vote.

By a vote of 116 to 82, the house approved tenure law amendments which put all teachers on two years' probation before they may enjoy tenure law benefits, and which set up a rating system for determining how teachers may be dismissed in case of incompetency.

BODY OF MINER IS FOUND IN A CREEK

Body of Steve Kocopi, sixty-three year old unemployed miner, at Buck Run, near Clymer, was found Saturday afternoon in shallow Two Lick Creek under a route 80 bridge at Clymer.

Coroner John Woods of Indiana county, joined in an investigation by Pvt. John R. Regna of the state motor police, said they learned the man left his home at 1:45 Saturday afternoon. The investigators said they were told he arose and complained of pains in his head and chest and that he had threatened to kill members of his family. He then disappeared. Woods and Private Regina discounted a suicide theory, expressing the belief that the man fell in the creek while wandering about suffering from the pain and had probably suffered a heart attack and fell into the stream.

PATTON YOUNG MEN ARE HURT IN FALL OF ROCK

Just at our press time, Wednesday noon, we learn of an accident that may have seriously injured Herman Yeckley, and caused Reuben Yahner a broken hip. The pair were caught under a fall of rock in the Maurer Mine near town. Both were taken to the Milers' hospital. Yeckley's back may be broken. Both are about 23 years old.

BIG WPA WORK DEMAND HAS BACKING OF CIO

Would Give WPA An Opportunity to Provide Kind of Program Really Needed.

Washington.—Support for the Casey bill, providing for three million WPA jobs during the next fiscal year, was pledged by the CIO on Monday.

The bill, H. R. 6470, was introduced by Rep. Joseph E. Casey of Massachusetts, Democrat, and follows out recent demands by President John L. Lewis that Congress establish "a minimum of safety" in handling national relief problems.

James B. Carey, secretary of the CIO Committee on Unemployment, and Ralph Hetzel, CIO unemployment director, announced that every facility of the CIO would be put behind the bill. The statement said: "The enactment of this bill would be the greatest step forward in the provision for the unemployed since the establishment of the WPA itself."

"This bill embodies most of the important points set forth by President John L. Lewis in his letter to Chairman Taylor of the House Appropriations Committee."

The statement pointed out further that: "The Casey Bill is a sound, practical bill, fully in accord with the aims and principles of the New Deal. The appropriation of \$2,250,000,000 carried by the bill is no more than was spent by WPA last year."

"The bill does not contain everything that is necessary to provide a real program for the unemployed," the statement went on, "but it does establish the WPA on a much sounder basis than it has ever had before."

"It will give the WPA an opportunity to provide the kind of program that is really needed. The sound principles which have been established previously under the WPA are retained and certain new principles of great importance are added in this bill."

The statement called attention to several points in the bill:

(1) The provision whereby employment on the WPA should not be reduced below three million until such time as there were less than three million eligible for such work.

(2) Workers who are out of work and able and willing to work should be certified as eligible without being forced to pauperize themselves.

(3) It provides that the Commissioner of Works Projects shall be directed to make such upward revisions in the monthly wage rates as may be necessary to give some kind of a decent living to WPA workers.

WIDOW OF MURPHY KUSH IS GRANTED AN AWARD BY THE BOARD

Dependants of Murphy Kush, United Mine Workers organizer, who died the morning after the last election will receive a total of \$9,944.83 in accordance with an award made by the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Under the terms of the board's award, Mrs. Kush and her children, Anna Mae and Robert, will receive the following payments:

To Mrs. Kush, \$16 a week for 600 weeks; to Anna Mae, \$8 a week for 136 weeks, payment of the sum to begin at the end of the 500 weeks; to Robert, \$5 a week for 128 weeks, payment to begin at the end of the 500-week period.

Mrs. Kush, under terms of the verdict, is to get compensation for herself and two children until the end of 500 weeks, then the state fund pays the youngsters until they are 18 years of age.

Murphy Kush died of a heart attack early on the morning of November 9, 1938, at the home of Joseph Feist, Conemaugh, U. M. W. of A. organizer.

Testimony in connection with the claim filed by Mrs. Kush stated that the deceased was in the line of duty and was, at the time of his death, enroute to the home of several labor men to tell them to report later in the day at the United Mine Workers compensation office in the First National Bank Building, Johnstown.

It was testified that Kush attempted to repair a punctured tire while enroute to the Feist home. Lacking proper tools, he had tried, with the help of a companion, to lift the car. On arriving at the Feist home, he was struck, with a heart attack.

The Kush case was unique from the beginning in that the United Mine Workers of America, which usually seeks claims for union miners, was a defendant with the State Compensation Fund in the claim filed by Mrs. night.

MILLION OF AFL MEMBERS WANT NO REVISMENT

CIO Pamphlet Charges That Number Opposes Amendments to the Wagner Act.

Washington.—At least one million members of the American Federation of Labor are already on record against the Walsh amendments to the Wagner act, sponsored by their President William Green, the CIO announced this week, in launching a drive to inform all AFL members of the dangers to labor involved in the proposed amendments.

Detailed evidence of the extent of the revolt within the AFL against the amendments is made public for the first time by the CIO in a pamphlet entitled, "Whose Amendments?" and sub-titled, "The AFL vs. William Green and the Natl. Association of Manufacturers."

Ten big AFL international unions and scores of state, city and other AFL organizations are listed as having taken a stand against the Walsh-Green amendments. Statements and correspondence of AFL officials are quoted, expressing their opposition. Evidence that the amendments were drafted in collusion with manufacturing interests is also produced in the pamphlet.

The pamphlet was mailed on Monday to every Senator and Congressman. It is also being circulated to every CIO affiliate with the request that CIO unions in every locality mail a copy to each AFL local in their area, and see that all AFL members are informed of its contents.

In a covering letter the CIO affiliates, Lee Pressman, general counsel and secretary of the CIO legislative committee, declares: "The pamphlet shows conclusively that the membership of the AFL does not want to see the Wagner act amended, and that it is in sharp opposition to the stand for amendments taken by Green and his associates in collusion with the NAM and other reactionary corporation interests."

The pamphlet reveals that the Walsh Green amendments were introduced in Congress without ever having been submitted to either the AFL annual convention or its executive council.

PROBERS OF OIL INDUSTRY FAIL TO OFFER CURE

Harrisburg.—A 2-year investigation of Pennsylvania's oil industry costing approximately \$100,000 instate and federal funds, was ended last Saturday without definite recommendations for regulatory legislation.

The 1938 joint oil investigating commission of which Representative Michael C. Chervenak, Jr., Democrat, Cambria county, is chairman, submitted the report to the house and senate without regulatory suggestions and urged its discharge or another appropriation to continue the inquiry.

It was pointed out that the "integrity of Pennsylvania's oil industry is an immediate problem for a more comprehensive investigation and remedial legislation."

ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE HAS COMMENCEMENT

The ninety-third annual commencement exercises of St. Francis College, Loretto, was held at 2:30 o'clock on Monday afternoon at Doyle hall on the campus.

Justice James B. Drew of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court delivered the principal address.

Rev. Father Patrick D. Harkins of Altoona Catholic high school, preached the baccalaureate sermon Sunday afternoon to a large audience assembled at the colleges. Activities Sunday opened with a solemn high mass by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles D. Wood, P. A., of Middletown, N. Y., followed by the annual hood bestowal services conducted by Rev. Father Edward P. Caraher, TOR, college president.

In addition to degrees conferred upon members of the graduating class on Monday afternoon, honorary degrees were conferred upon Monsignor Wood and Justice Drew.

Hearings were held before Referee W. Lloyd Hibbs.

Counsel for the state fund attempted to show in the testimony that Kush was, at the time of his death, engaged in election day activities. It was testified that he spent much of November 8th, helping to "get out the vote" and collecting returns until late that night.