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Florida Ban On Union Shop Upset By NWLB In Important Test Case

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In an important test case, the National War Labor Board ruled that Federal laws invalidate the Florida State Constitutional ban on the closed shop. This was a decisive first-round victory for the American Federation of Labor in a legal fight which is expected to go all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States for final decision.

Rejecting a petition by the Attorney General of Florida, the board upheld a maintenance-of-union membership directive from the Regional WLB a tAtlanta in a case involving three AFL unions at the Port Industry members dissented.

J. Tom Watson, the State Attorney General, asked the NWLB to intervene because of a state constitutional amendment adopted last November. A United States district court recently held the amendment valid.

The paper mill did not appeal from the regional board maintenance-of-membership directive, but the state itself took up the issue.

The NWLB, in its decision, held that the War Labor Disputes Act is supreme when in conflict with either state law or state constitution.

In reaching its decision the board said it was guided by Article 6, Section 2, of the United States Constitution, which states:

"This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof or which shall be made

under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding."

The AFL holds that the Florida amendment violates the Federal Constitution's guarantees of freedom of contract. St. Joe (Florida) paper mill, as well as the National Labor Relations Act and the War Labor Disputes Act, under which the NWLB derives its statutory authority to act in labor disputes which threaten to interfere with the war effort.

Under the standard maintenance-of-membership clause workers are allowed 15 days to decide whether to withdraw from a union. Those remaining members must keep up their union dues for the duration of the contract or lose their jobs.

The first agreement between the Florida company and the unions in 1939 contained a union security clause. The concern makes sulphate kraft linerboard, corrugated board and kraft pulp. The WLB said that three other comparable paper mills in Florida had full union-shop agreements reached through negotiations.

The three unions involved in the decision are the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and International Association of Machinists. Together they represent about 450 workers.

ed but he pointed out that it does not provide the long-term basic improvements in social security which "are so sorely needed" and which are included in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

The emergency measure provides that the federal government shall supplement state funds so that persons now earning \$50 a week or more may get a maximum of \$25 a week for twenty-six weeks in any one year when unemployed. Those earning less than \$50 a week would get lower compensation.

Union Want \$3 Bill to Honor Roosevelt

Washington, D. C. — A proposal to perpetuate the memory of President Roosevelt by having the government print a three-dollar bill, with his portrait on one side and a picture of the Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park on the other, was made in a resolution adopted by Bindery and Miscellaneous Workers Union, Local 92, of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

LABOR LOOKS AT CONGRESS

By LEWIS G. HINES

The House of Representatives has recessed for the summer. The Senate is expected to follow suit in another week or two. With the 79th session of Congress heading for vacation, this appears to be an appropriate time to review the work it has done thus far.

High on the credit side must be placed the accomplishments of Congress in the international field. It is a foregone conclusion that the Senate will ratify the San Francisco Charter binding the United Nations to act for the preservation of world peace. Coupled with congressional approval of the Bretton Woods Monetary Agreement, this action marks a historic abandonment of American isolationism. The American Federation of Labor, which endorsed both the charter and the Bretton Woods pact, is highly pleased by the outcome.

On domestic issues, the record of this Congress is somewhat spotty. We take off our hats to the lawmakers for adopting legislation giving almost two million government employes their first basic pay increase in more than twenty years. That was constructive. Also labor wishes to commend Congress for defeating all attempts to enact a compulsory labor draft. Events have proved the wisdom of the American Federation of Labor's opposition to such legislation. In fact, Congress deserves a boost for refusing to approve any anti-labor bills at this session.

But there is another side to this picture. Congress has failed miserably to provide for human needs in the reconversion program. It has endangered the situation of millions of war workers who may be laid off by cutbacks by postponing action on President Truman's urgent recommendations for increasing unemployment compensation. It hasn't lifted a finger to advance the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security amendments, designed to safeguard the nation's health. It failed to approve the Norton bill which would permit the Labor Department to wage a campaign against preventable industrial accident.

These are some of the pros and cons on the record of the 79th Congress to date. Labor is grateful to Congress for its constructive achievements and hopes it will hasten to correct its errors of omission when it gets back on the job next October.

General Praises Labor

WASHINGTON, D. C., — In high praise of labor for its part in giving the American soldier and sailor the finest weapons of the war, Lt. General Robert C. Richardson, Jr., Commanding General, Army Forces, Middle Pacific, said from his headquarters over Army Hour's recent broadcast: "I believe we know how to use them effectively!"

The Navy Speaks to Labor

I have just returned from a tour covering the Far Eastern fighting front, the Central and Southwest Pacific, the China-India supply lines and bases, and the industrial Navy Yards of Honolulu and the West Coast of the United States. It makes one proud to see the American combat-industrial team at work. It is a competent, skilled team, getting ahead on a dirty job. American ingenuity, brawn and brains getting things done in the mud and rain, working against time, disease, infection and insects, while they rout the Japs out of their foxholes and caves. They are trying to shorten the war for us.

Again this week our headlines have told us one of the most dramatic events of the war, a portent of the final act in the Pacific theater. The great battlewagons of our Navy stood five miles off the Japanese coast shelling its cities and industrial targets, unchallenged by sea, air or ground fire — Halsey spitting in Hirohito's eye. This is a long way from December 1941, when the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor laid low the major portion of our battle strength. We have come back the long road on the way to victory, step by step, made possible by the sacrifices of our fighting men and the almost incredible accomplishments of American industry and labor.

We must remember that when our naval ships go into enemy waters they take risks of heavy casualties and damage; and in the recent combined operations around Okinawa, your Navy suffered heavy punishment. We were opposing at close range the ships and the shore-based aviation of an empire. We paid a heavy price. Many ships were damaged; and we must pay that price again on each

invasion of territory that is vital to the Japanese. The Japanese are seriously weakened, but they are cunning, dangerous and tenacious fighters, and will resist invasion at all costs; and our ships will continue to be damaged, and American workers are the people who must repair them.

More and more, as the Fleet is immobilized in the shadow of the enemy's home islands in support of landings, our ships will be subject to attack from air and undersea forces. Damaged ships mean loss of fighting power, with a temporary reduction in fleet efficiency. It is imperative that damaged vessels be returned to action expeditiously.

This battle for repairs has to be fought here at home. It has to be fought by American labor, working day in and day out around the clock in shipyards and repair plants on both coasts. The strain of that battle I have seen in the faces of workmen in our industrial plants; but labor has to keep putting it out until we knock out the Japanese. The Fleet wants to know how soon we can give them back their damaged ships. Every out-of-action ship means fewer anti-aircraft guns and fewer carrier planes in the air. A delay in the return of those ships delays the end of the war. It is labor's problem and responsibility, and I know they will meet it.

The Japanese are like a boxer badly hit, hanging on hoping to be salvaged by the bell. They must be hit again and again and knocked out while they are off balance. We must continue to keep all possible combat units in action. The Navy asks you to make that your slogan and help us speed the victory.

Textile Union Official Wins Army Decoration

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Corporal Burton Hyman, a former member of the Executive Council of the United Textile Workers of America (AFL) has been decorated as a war hero.

Corp. Hyman served in Germany with the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group which was recently awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its exploits in action. In addition, he wears four battle stars on his European Theater of Operations ribbon.

Vice-Commander Of Colon Brigade Gives Resignation Reason

COLON, Aug. 23 — Due to existing irregularities in the Pan-American Brigade organization and because of misunderstandings between himself and the commander, Reginald Lovell, vice-commander, resigned.

He denied being responsible for attempted supplanting of the supreme commander, but said that the leader failed to

St. Paul's Church Completes Plans For Choir Festival

Plans for the Choir Festival to be held September 16 by St. Paul's Episcopal Church are now being completed and the choir is rehearsing for the occasion. It is hoped that the members and friends of the Parish will attend this musical entertainment, as the Rector, Archdeacon A. F. Nightengale, is expected to leave on a vacation trip to Jamaica a few days after the Festival service.

The Rector will be away for about two months. During his absence the Rt. Rev. Heber R. Gooden, Bishop of the Missionary District of Panama Canal Zone, and other clergymen of the Diocese will be in charge of services.

Archdeacon Nightengale is due to return to the Isthmus in time for the Annual Harvest Thanksgiving services, which will be held around November 25.

cooperate with the younger officers, forcing them to adopt an attitude which the commander described as overstepping their bounds.