

Effect of Rising Wage Scales on Farmers May Be Headed for Congressional Inquiry

By LYLE C. WILSON
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Washington (U.P.)—The dispute about the effect of organized labor's rising wage scales on the well-being of American farmers may be headed for congressional inquiry.



The top leaders of organized labor are touching on the labor-farmer relationship. So are the politicians most closely identified with the big unions. Secretary

of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson gave the issue a once-over-lightly treatment a few months ago in a New Orleans speech.

He was rebuked by Walter Reuther, then president of the unmerged CIO. The evidence indicates that the White House

Handicaps' Friend Dies in Portland

Portland (U.P.)—Mrs. Margaret Bondurant, 79, one of Portland's Women of Achievement and holder of a special citation from President Eisenhower, died last night in Good Samaritan hospital here.

For 46 years Mrs. Bondurant had been associated with work for the physically handicapped. She retired last October from active management of the Craft Shop for the Handicapped which she founded and operated as a volunteer since 1947.

Portland Quota Club named Mrs. Bondurant Woman of Achievement in 1949 and in 1954 President Eisenhower cited her for her work in behalf of the physically handicapped. She was president of Albertina Kerr nursery in 1919 and had been chairman of the state advisory committee for the blind and the Children's Farm Home in Corvallis.

passed the word to Benson to lay off. Benson had said that higher wages under a new CIO contract in the farm machinery industry had been a factor in the cost-price freeze about which the farm belt angrily is complaining.

His department made the same point in broad terms, extending to industry in general, in a study of food marketing costs published last week. The labor leaders and labor politicians challenged that one, also.

Probe Need for Facts
The mere fact that Benson

said what he said and that his department's study backed him up does not prove that there is real and basic conflict of interests between organized labor and the farm community. The fact that Reuther and others deny it, however, does not necessarily prove that the basic conflict does not exist. If all the facts are to be had in satisfactory form they will have to come from a serious and well-conducted congressional investigation.

If Reuther and his associates are confident they can prove that their wage hikes do not con-

tribute to the price squeeze, it is likely that the Democratic House or Senate will undertake such an investigation this year. The unions are closely allied with the Democratic party and could apply much pressure for an investigation if they want it.

Meantime, some of the farm organizations seem to go along with Benson, notably the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau federation. The left-wing Farmers Union likely will be lined up with labor and the labor politicians in any showdown.

The Grange and the Farm Bu-

reau obviously sense a conflict of farmer-labor interests. Both, for example, favor the adoption by all states of the so-called right-to-work laws which organized labor opposes on grounds that it is union-busting legislation.

Organized farmers appear to be disturbed by the political power accruing to labor, especially since the AFL-CIO merger. The farm bureau favors labor's right to organize, but regards "with concern the threat of political monopoly by labor unions." The bureau, however, advocates collective bargaining

and the right to strike. The bureau also is on record with a citation of "featherbedding, jurisdictional conflicts and boycotts" as substantially increasing costs to farmers and all consumers. Spokesmen for both organizations told the United Press a farmer-labor political combination would be unrealistic and impractical. The bureau spokesman explained, further, by saying the interests of labor and farmers are not identical, although not necessarily contradictory.

A congressional investigation could produce some interesting

information—if it ever takes place.

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Churchill's Lion On Display at Zoo

London (U.P.)—Sir Winston Churchill's lion Rusty has left quarantine to go on display in a zoo.

Rusty, presented to the former prime minister last July by the Lions Club International of Atlantic City, N. J., replaced his former lion, Rota, who died. Rusty spent six months in quarantine because of British health regulations.

State Group Formed for Telephones in Argentina

Buenos Aires (U.P.)—Communications Minister Luis M. Igartua announced Monday night that a state-owned corporation has been formed to operate Argentina's telephone system.

Under the administration of ousted dictator Juan D. Peron, the government bought the telephone system from the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. for some \$100,000,000. As of last Dec. 31, the State Telephone Administration had an accumulated deficit of more than forty million dollars.

Adenauer Invites Mission Troupe To Play in Bonn

Paris (U.P.)—West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has invited the Moral Rearmament Ideological mission to present its play, "The Vanishing Island" in Bonn, it was disclosed here Monday night.

Dr. Theodor Oberlander, West German refugees minister, said at the Paris premiere of the play that he had written a letter of invitation to Dr. Frank Buchman, founder of the mission, on behalf of Adenauer and other top West German officials.

Quotes From the News

New York—Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas on the new Russian look after his recent extensive tour of the Soviet Union:

"The smiling, peaceful, prosperous Russia is the most difficult international problem America has yet faced."

New York—Henry Ford II, on the idea of investors buying Ford Motor Co. stock with the intention of making a fast dollar:

"We of Ford Motor Co. are business men and not miracle men."

Washington—A Senate Judiciary subcommittee in its preliminary report to the Senate on narcotics traffic:

"Heroin smugglers and peddlers are selling murder, robbery and rape, and should be dealt with accordingly. Their offense is human destruction as surely as that of murder. In truth and in fact, it is 'murder on the installment plan.'"

Miami Beach—A Florida vacationist on the cold wave:

"We're going back just as soon as we can find the other half of our bus ticket which we lost around here some place."

Monte Carlo, Monaco—Andrew Vavier, 25, bank clerk, on reports Prince Rainier III and Grace Kelly will wed in the United States:

"It is unthinkable that the sovereign should marry outside his own principality."

Ramstein, Germany—Maj. Gen. Robert M. Lee, commander of the U.S. 12th Air Force, in ordering his airmen to pare down their waistlines:

"Flying personnel will be suspended from flying activities until the reductions have been accomplished."



Big moment in a new father's life. Lusty-voiced Dave Jr. arrived at 6:32 in the morning. And was there ever another baby quite so wonderful? When he and Big Dave met soon afterwards, father's modest appraisal of son went something like this: the shoulders of a fullback, the jaw of a heavyweight champion, and the hands of a star pitcher. As his sleepy son was put in the bassinet,

Dave headed back to the waiting room. Within seconds he was on the telephone there, sharing his enthusiasm with four proud grandparents... and everyone else he could think of. To him the telephone seemed more important than ever right then. And no wonder. For at times like this, there is no better way to pass along big news so fast, so easily. Pacific Telephone.



With a telephone at her side to accept friends' congratulations and exchange news, mother Jean's stay at the hospital was more pleasant, passed a lot faster.



Before Dave left home to pick her up on the last day, Jean phoned to remind him again to bring the baby's clothes... not that he could possibly forget.



Happy to be home, but busier than ever—even with Dave's help—Jean depended on her phone more and more. For she, like so many others, was finding that as life grows busier the telephone grows ever more useful.

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