

Meany Plans Challenge To Proposal To Hold Line on Wage Hikes Next Year

Atlantic City, N. J.—AFL-CIO President George Meany today readied a challenge to a proposal to hold the line next year on wages of millions of construction, steel and other workers.

Meany, briefed by AFL-CIO economists, was prepared to argue that high wages for union members benefited the entire nation and bolstered the economy.

The surprising suggestion for a moratorium on pay boosts came from Richard J. Gray, president of the Building Trades department of the AFL-CIO.

New Tax Problem Has Just Started Phil Lowry Says

The problem of curing the ailments tax in Oregon has only started, according to Phil Lowry, state senator, before the Monday meeting of the chamber of commerce roundtable.

Lowry said he felt the special session of the state legislature had accomplished something but it did not get to the heart of the tax problem. He indicated overhaul of the state tax system in Oregon was needed to put the state in level competition with the rest of the states.

He told the group before the special session of the legislature Oregon's overall tax system was the most severe income tax standard in the entire United States. The session was a conflict of philosophies of keeping a surplus and how large that surplus should be, he said.

Session Not Justified

Lowry said he felt the reason for calling the special session by the governor was not justified. He said the governor had asked first for a 6 per cent discount on the income tax rate set during the regular session but raised this to 10 per cent when he heard there would be strong movements at the special session to raise above 10 per cent.

The house passed the bill as presented by the governor but the Republicans and a few Democrats in the senate felt the discount should be larger and the tax rate itself needed reducing. He hinted one of the major factors in delaying passage of a compromise bill was the fact the senate wanted a tax rate reduction while the house held out for a discount.

Lowry said the session was called to reduce the projected surplus. He told the group the same men who in the regular session said 10 to 15 million dollars was enough for a surplus had changed their minds and felt more than 50 million dollars was necessary in the special session.

The basic school fund was increased from \$95 to \$105 per census child at the special session, he said. The regular session has already increased the amount from \$80 to \$95, he added.

He also told of a bill which would permit the state to impose the property tax only toward reduction of the state debt or bonds held by the state. Up to this time, the state was authorized to place a property tax anytime the budget was not met, he said. The last time such a tax was assessed was in 1941, Lowry added.

Clare Booth Luce Hull Award Winner

New York—Clare Booth Luce, playwright, one-time Congresswoman and former U.S. ambassador to Italy, was named today as the recipient of the third annual Cordell Hull award for leadership in building U.S. foreign economic policy.

The award, to be presented at a public rally Dec. 10 at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, is sponsored by the Committee on Foreign Trade Education, Inc. It commemorates former Secretary of State, Cordell Hull who in 1934 introduced the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program, designed to expand this country's trade with other nations by the reciprocal reduction of high tariffs and other barriers.

Previous recipients of the award are Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) and Paul G. Hoffman, former administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The moratorium question posed an unexpected problem for Meany, who was busy attempting to line up support for expulsion of the Teamsters union on corruption charges.

Gray also urged the building trades unions to vote against ousting the Teamsters. He said it would be "un-American" to expel the Teamsters on "unproven charges."

Would Aid Economy

Gray said that if the building trades unions avoided demands for wage boosts next year they would help halt the rise in the cost of living and assure more jobs for their members.

The construction industry, he said, was hard-hit by the administration's tight money policy and this led to unemployment of union craftsmen.

Meany's answer to Gray's plan was expected to come in appearances before the union label

or maritime trades departmental conventions.

The AFL-CIO president also planned to address the building trades group this afternoon but his aides said he planned to tackle its jurisdictional complaints at that time.

Resolutions calling for secession from the AFL-CIO are before the Building Trades convention but there is little chance of their passage, informed sources said.

Building Unions Angry

The building unions are angry because Meany refused to take their side in a dispute with industrial unions over job rights in factory additions and alterations.

But few leaders of building trades unions showed enthusiasm for the wage boost moratorium.

Painters President L. M. Raftery called it "taking bread and butter away from building

tradesmen." Carpenters chief M. A. Hutcheson and electricians' President Gordon Freeman pointed out many labor contracts include automatic wage hikes in 1958.

Bricklayers' boss Harry C. Bates favored it "if we have a continuance of the tight money." Plumbers President Peter Schoemann and lathers' leader Lloyd A. Mashburn agreed with Gray but excluded areas where "sub-standard" wages are paid.

New Leaflet Tells Of Leasing Machines

Many small industrial plants have found that leasing of new production equipment is a practical means of increasing output and profits, according to a new leaflet announced today by John G. Barnett, branch manager of the Small Business administration for this area.

Barnett said this is particularly true in the case of owners of plants with worn or outmoded machinery who do not have funds for the purchase of new equipment.

The leaflet, Should Your Plant Lease Production Equipment, is available upon request from the Portland office at 520 SW Morrison st., Portland 4.

Portland Traction, Union Resume Talks

Portland — Contract talks between Portland Traction company and local 757 on the Street Car Men's union resumed here today. The union seeks a 20-cent across-the-board pay hike. Business Agent M. E. Leonard said a 70-6 vote favoring a strike was taken Nov. 18 but that a strike cannot be called until a 60-day "cooling off" period expires Jan. 18.

REFUGEE FLOW INCREASES

Berlin — The West Berlin Refugee office reported today that the largest number of East Germans in four years sought asylum in West Berlin during last week end. The refugees totaled 1,523 compared to the average week end figure of 700. The increase was attributed to reports that the Communists plan to tighten controls around West Berlin and attempt to halt the flow of refugees into the Western sector.

SHOCK THERAPIST DIES

New York — Dr. Manfred J. Sakel, 57, originator of insulin shock therapy for schizophrenia, died of a heart attack at his home here Monday. Sakel first shocked a schizophrenic into a coma with sugar and brought him back to sanity in 1928 at Berlin's Lichterfelde hospital. The 30th anniversary of his earliest insulin experiments was marked by an international symposium in Vienna last September.

GARDEN NOTE

Pittsfield, Mass. — Asked by police why he committed a \$319 burglary, a nine-year-old boy replied: "I needed the lettuce."



NAVY coach Erdelatz grins as his team scores against Army in annual classic at Philadelphia. (International)

Tuesday, December 3, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

John Hancock Name Causes Trouble

Columbus, Ohio—An invitation to "just put your John Hancock there" is enough to make a local man throw up his hands.

His name is John E. Hancock. Hancock, who claims no relationship to the man whose signature on the Declaration of Independence made the name famous, said he first became aware of the difficulties about his name when he entered high school.

"I went to a store where my father, whose name was William, had a charge account," Hancock recalled. "After I bought a few items, the clerk asked me to put my 'John Hancock' on the sales slip."

"When I did what he told me to, he was very indignant."

But Hancock's biggest frustration came in his negotiations with the John Hancock Life Insurance Co. When he was married three years ago, he took over payments on a policy his wife had with the company. Every time he called the office and identified himself, he said the operator would hang up. The payments he sent to the office by mail were returned.

After considerable effort he was able to get a phone call through to the manager and eventually clear up the confusion with a personal visit.

Egypt's cotton exports dropped off about 43 per cent in 1957 compared with 1956. Sharpest cuts were in exports to Czechoslovakia, Red China, United Kingdom, India, and France.

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Drug Packages Are Being Dressed Up

Chicago — Consumer demand is brightening up the once drab look of pharmaceutical packages.

Today's drug items are being dressed up as fancy as a bottle of perfume, the result of a major upheaval on the drug product field according to a survey by the Folding Paper Box Assn.

The major reasons given for the face lifting in drug packages, the survey shows, are:

1. Shifting distribution — supermarkets take larger chunks of drug store business every year;
2. An upswing in self-service through all outlets;
3. Shrinking brand loyalty, aggravated by an avalanche of new products;
4. A retail trend in diversification.

Scientist Coins New Word for Industry

Washington — An agricultural scientist in private industry has coined a new phrase—Age of Agri-dynamics—to describe the link between farming and scientific research.

J. Jerome Thompson, head of the agricultural division of Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., used the Agricultural Research Institute of the National Academy of Science-National Research Council. The institute, a non-partisan, correlating agency for agricultural information, represents public agencies, scientific societies, and industries — associated with agriculture.

Such a phrase for agriculture, he said, will help kill off the old concept that farming merely means plowing the back 40 or milking the cows.

Fleetwood, England — The crewmen of a British trawler reported after a fishing trip today that they caught a rocket—and threw it back. Edward Hood, skipper of the trawler Gula, said the plastic rocket was caught in the nets. He said the rocket's head fell off and displayed wires and mechanism. He said they threw it back because "we did not risk making a close examination."

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