

Meany Urges House Approval of Stripped-Down Union Reform Measure

Washington - (UPI) - The AFL-CIO urged the House today to approve a stripped-down version of the Senate-passed union reform bill. It said this would "get at the crooks" in the labor movement.

AFL-CIO President George Meany made the appeal in testimony prepared for two House labor subcommittees now considering reform legislation.

Meany said the Senate bill in its present form would do "grave and irreparable harm" to unions under the guise of fighting corruption.

He criticized major features of the Kennedy-Ervin bill which passed the Senate 90-1 April 23 and attacked a measure offered by Rep. Carroll D. Kearns (R-Pa.) as "viciously anti-labor."

Meany accused leading business organizations of trying to abolish union, while they "piously pretend" to be concerned about racketeering. Corruption in Business

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, both oppose the Senate measure on the grounds it doesn't go far enough to curb union picketing and boycott activities.

"The employer organizations which have done exactly nothing about corruption in the ranks of employees are not interested in getting at corruption either in their own ranks... or in the ranks of the labor movement."

"As a matter of fact, all too many employers have shown a desire for doing business with the crooks who masquerade as trade unionists rather than deal with bona fide trade union leaders for the simple reason that the crooks give them a better deal."

Back to Reform Steps

The AFL-CIO chief backed reform legislation based on public reporting of union finances, control of union trusteeship, regulation of union elections, and federal encouragement of ethical practice codes. He also advocated compulsory disclosure of employer's spending on labor-management relations.

Meany asked the House to back out the "bill of rights" provisions added to the Kennedy-Ervin bill on the Senate floor. He said they "promise union members much but may well get them very little and may give their enemies weapons with which to destroy their organizations."

He said legislation guaranteeing rank and file members the right to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the right to sue labor leaders would breed lawsuits and put unions in a strait-jacket.

Air Secretary Hails Graduating Class at Academy

Air Force Academy, Colo. - (UPI) - Air Force Secretary James H. Douglas hailed the first graduating class of the new Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs today as a future bulwark against the spread of Communism.

He said the graduates were being commissioned in an Air Force which spans the Free World and has a "major role in holding the Communist world in check."

"As the first graduates of the academy," he said in a commencement address, they "may play a critical role in keeping the history of the western world a history of free men."

Campus Incomplete

Four years of intensive training and study ended for 207 young men who were part of the 506-man class that entered the interim academy at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver July 11, 1955. The academy was moved to this still incomplete 17,900-acre campus in the foothills north of Colorado Springs last summer.

At West Point, 494 cadets received their diplomas today.

At Annapolis, 797 midshipmen graduate.

\$100,000 Paid In Railroad Death

Olympia, Wash. - (UPI) - A \$100,000 court settlement to the estate of Kenneth A. Dilley, killed when 15 Union Pacific boxcars ran away here March 13, was disclosed Tuesday.

Superior Court Judge Charles T. Wright approved the offer made by the railroad in an action initiated by the widow, Mrs. Betty Lou Dilley.

Dilley, a telegrapher, was working in the Union Pacific depot in downtown Olympia when the string of unmanned cars crashed through the depot, thundered across a busy thoroughfare and plowed into two cafes.

Fifteen persons were injured and property damage was \$226,000.

Ike's Determination Strengthens Hopes For Strauss Backers

Washington - (UPI) - President Eisenhower's determination to fight for Lewis L. Strauss as commerce secretary today strengthened Republican hopes for Senate approval of the hotly contested nomination.

The President, who passed word Tuesday that he had no intention of withdrawing the appointment, restated his position in strong terms at his morning news conference.

Confirmation Predicted

Eisenhower's quick disavowal of the withdrawal talk caused one GOP leader to predict that Strauss would be confirmed even if finally opposed by Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson.

One intimate of Johnson insisted that the Texan was keeping "hands off" the Strauss fight and, like some other Democrats, was still trying to decide how to vote on the former Atomic Energy Commission chairman.

It has been apparent for some time that the stand taken by the floor leader of the 64 Senate Democrats might well determine the outcome of the expected "close" vote.

Senate GOP Leader Everett M. Dirksen, continuing to forecast approval of the nomination, counted only one Republican vote against Strauss that of Sen. William Langer (R-N.J.).

"I have no alarm about defections on our side," he said. "I'm sure of my troops."

Due Next Week

The Senate plans to take up the Strauss nomination this week, probably Thursday, but there is no assurance of an early decision. Some Republicans think it can be disposed of by the end of next week. Many Democrats believe the fight could drag on for several weeks.

Eisenhower is expected to announce that he would not withdraw the Strauss appointment even if Strauss requested it.

Ways and Means Votes To Continue Wartime Taxes

Washington - (UPI) - Another year's extension of the wartime tax rates on corporations and such items as cigarettes, liquor and automobiles was approved today by the House Ways and Means Committee. The Treasury would lose \$2 billion a year if the rates were reduced.

The bill would continue until June 30, 1960, the 58 percent levy on corporation profits, preventing an automatic drop to the permanent 49 percent rate.

Also set aside are scheduled tax reductions of one cent a pack for cigarettes, \$1.50 a gallon for distilled spirits, \$1 per barrel for beer, and varying amounts for wine. The measure retains the present tax of 10 percent on the manufacturer's sale price of autos and 8 percent on parts and accessories. These had been scheduled to go down to 7 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Before acting, the committee heard Budget Director Maurice H. Stans testify that the federal deficit for the year ending June 30 is expected to total \$12,400,000,000, about \$500 million less than estimated in January.

This still would be the greatest deficit spending in peacetime history.

MORE USED CARS

New York - (UPI) - Americans will buy more used cars than new cars in 1959 for the second straight year, according to a survey by Business Week Magazine. It was the other way around in the three years prior to 1958. The study reports 9.8 percent of the population will be in the used car market this year while 7.6 percent will be buying new cars. In the record auto sales year of 1955, 8.2 percent bought new cars and 7.5 percent used ones.

Northern Coastal Area Drenched By Heavy Rains

By United Press International

Scattered showers were predicted for much of the West today in the wake of drenching rains over the northern coastal area, matching a similar pattern in the East.

At least two tornado funnels were sighted Tuesday over North Carolina, one of which destroyed and damaged farm buildings at Old Dock.

Rainfall amounts Tuesday ranged from 1.5 to 3 inches at Boston, Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa., and Washington. Amounts of more than one-half inch were common from the North Carolina and Virginia coasts to southern England.

Children Injured

In Washington, a car skidded on a rain-slicked road and smashed into a school bus Tuesday, killing the driver of the car. The bus driver was hospitalized and 56 children suffered minor injuries.

In the West, a hail storm battered Curry county in New Mexico Tuesday, flattening a big winter wheat crop. Damage was estimated at more than \$1 million.

The storm was part of a squall line which struck New Mexico and parts of Texas.

Rain also doused western sections of Washington and Oregon during the night with the Washington coast reporting amounts up to one-half inch.

'Excessive Costs' In Fixing Plane Prices Said Uncovered

Washington - (UPI) - Comptroller General Joseph Campbell told Congress today that his auditors have unearthed \$30,000,000 in "excessive costs" used in fixing prices of Air Force planes.

Campbell, financial "watchdog" for Congress, said that most cases of "unreasonably high" prices on contracts and subcontracts stemmed from faulty procedures by the Air Force and its contractors.

Steps for More Action

He said the Air Force has acted to improve these procedures but he called for more action to "further strengthen" controls over pricing of contracts, as well as subcontracts.

Campbell's report summarized the findings of 14 studies by his auditors of contracts and subcontracts for planes, which have been submitted to Congress during the past 12 months. It was prepared by his staff for presentation to a House armed services subcommittee.

He said that some of the 14 cases showed that estimated costs used in fixing prices were "excessive" by about \$17 million, which, unless adjusted, would boost government costs by \$6,340,000.

Without Consideration

In other cases, Campbell said, prices were negotiated without enough consideration of cost information which was available. He said that in these cases the selling prices totaled \$58,700,000, about \$13,000,000 or about 30 percent above costs.

Campbell said all 14 reports dealt with "inadequate use of cost data" in negotiating contracts by the Air Force, and in determining subcontracts by the prime contractors.

Price Important

He said the subcontract prices are important because the prices paid to the contractor by the Air Force usually include them.

Contractors involved in the study included Boeing Airplane Co., Seattle; Rheem Manufacturing Co., Downey, Calif.; Friden, Inc., San Leandro, Calif.; Menasco Manufacturing Co., Burbank, Calif.; Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Los Angeles; Goodyear Aircraft Corp., Arizona Division, Litchfield Park, Ariz.

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By BENNETT CERF

THE LOCAL GOSSIP was waiting on the stoop when the traveling salesman came home from his winter trip. "While you were away," he cackled, "I saw a tall, dark man kissing your wife." The salesman asked, "Did he wear glasses and white shoes, and did he have a big mustache?" "That's the one," exulted the gossip.

"Forget it," advised the salesman. "That was our milkman. He'll kiss anybody."

George de Witt told his fellow thespian he kept seeing spots in front of his eyes. "Have you seen an oculist yet?" inquired his worried friend. "Not yet," admitted de Witt. "Just spots."

"I beg you," beseeched the junior miss' wear buyer to the beautiful new model, "whisper those three little words that will have me walking on air." The model obliged with, "Go hang yourself."

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Liberal Democrats In Clear Majority In Japan Election

Tokyo - (UPI) - The pro-western Liberal Democratic party swept to a clear majority in the upper house of the Japanese Parliament today in tabulation of final returns from Tuesday's elections.

Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi's Liberal Democrats (conservatives) campaigned on a platform of close military ties with the United States and no recognition of the Chinese Communist government.

The socialists took the opposite stand and wanted a four-way peace pact with the U. S., Red China and Russia.

There were 127 seats at stake of the 250 in the upper house. Seventy-five seats were decided by regional elections and 52 from nationwide balloting.

The latest unofficial count gave the Liberal Democratic party 49 regional seats and at least 16 seats in national balloting.

Rocket Ship X15 Due Free Flight

Edwards AFB, Calif. - (UPI) - America's rocket ship X15 may undertake its first free flight Thursday.

The stub-winged craft will be taken aloft on its fifth captive flight under a giant B52 plane to about 38,000 feet where, "provided everything functions properly," it will be released to glide back to earth without fuel.

Test pilot Scott Crossfield, 37, will be at the controls of the X15. The craft and its two sister ships are designed to become America's first manned vehicles to invade the fringes of space about 100 miles above the earth at speeds of more than 4,000 miles an hour.

The labor-backed Socialists won 21 regional seats and nine national seats. The Green Breeze party won five seats and the Independents five.

The ruling party had 66 seats at stake in the elections and could lose their majority if they dropped more than two.

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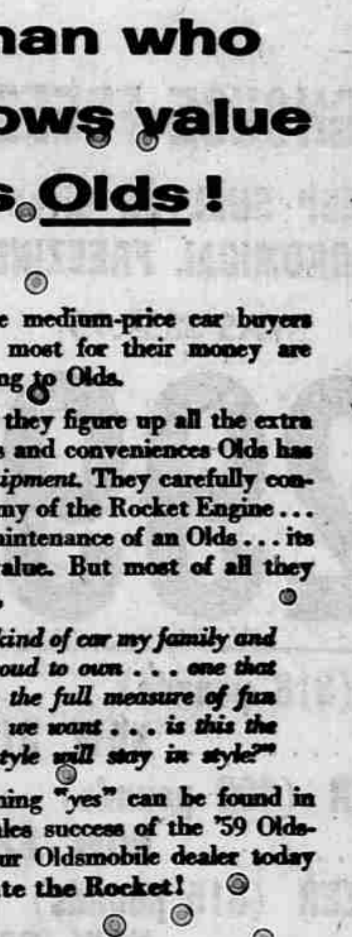
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