

Taft-Hartley Act Stirs New Praise And New Fury As Unions Gird For Fight

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (AP)—The Taft-Hartley labor law stirred new praise and new fury—and a rash of new rulings and law suits.

Senator Ball (R-Minn.) chairman of the congressional "watch dog" committee set up to study operation of the act, declared that it is "working out far better than even its most optimistic supporters had hoped." He said the "hysterical charges" of union leaders last summer have been disproved.

But CIO President Philip Murray said: "Events which have already transpired, unfortunately, are eloquent proof in support of the predictions made by labor when this vicious law was under consideration."

Murray, in a letter to AFL President William Green, called for joint CIO-AFL action of the grounds that (a) employers are seeking to use the act "as a weapon against the living standards of the workers" and (b) the national labor relations board and its agents are helping them.

The AFL, however, made clear that it has no intention of retreating from its long-standing position: that joint action by the two labor groups can be brought about only through physical merger.

A spokesman for Green reiterated that stand even as Green was assembling his 13-man executive council for an all-day session to lay plans for the AFL's new political arm.

Through this organization — to be called "Labor's Educational and Political League"—the AFL will try to defeat congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley law. Presidents of AFL unions—numbering 105—will meet here tomorrow on the same subject.

Other Taft-Hartley developments included these:

1. The CIO's National Maritime union filed suit in federal district court here yesterday challenging the constitutionality of provisions requiring non-communist oaths and union financial statements.

Judge Bolitha Laws agreed after hearing preliminary arguments that a substantial constitutional question is involved. He said a special three-judge court will consider the case promptly.

2. The national labor relations

board delivered another blow to unions whose officers don't file the non-communist affidavits. The board ruled, for the first time, that a non-complying union can't get on the ballot in a plant election even when the company itself asks for this election. The union involved in the ruling is the CIO Furworkers.

3. In another important case the five-man NLRB ranged itself against an employer. The board asked the supreme court to force the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing company to reinstate—with back pay—a foreman who was fired for organizing other foremen into a union at the company's Detroit plant in 1944.

Crash Report Due Soon

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (AP)—A report setting out the probable cause of the plane crash which killed Oregon's Gov. Earl Snell and three others October 28 will be issued soon by the civil aeronautics board.

The preliminary statement has been completed, the board reported today, but this contains no conclusions. It is only an outline of testimony taken at a Klamath Falls hearing. Although the preliminary statement mentioned unfavorable weather, there was no indication

the weight to be attached to that in drafting the final conclusions.

Killed with the governor in the crash east of Klamath Falls were Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., Senate President Marshall Cornett and Pilot Cliff Hogue.

Prof. Gabriel Tikhoff, Russian astronomer, believes the planet Mars has forests of evergreen trees similar to those on earth.

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