

Taft Planning Changes In Labor Legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Taft is planning some changes next year in his long-sought labor-management relations law that bears his name.

Two of the amendments are expected to meet specific objections voiced to the Taft-Hartley law by President-elect Eisenhower.

An aide to the Ohio Republican said today that considerable drafting work already has been done on the amendments.

Many of them will be similar to the 28 changes which passed the Senate in 1949 but stalled in the House. Taft says the 1949 amendments died because the unions wanted repeal or nothing and felt repeal had a chance under a Democratic administration. He is said to believe that the unions will be more co-operative in the 1953 session, which will be Republican-controlled.

Despite his willingness to re-write portions of the law, Taft is insistent that its basic principles be left unchanged.

The two changes favored by Eisenhower and planned by Taft are:

A requirement that company officials take the non-Communist oath if they wish to use the act, as union officials now are required to do.

Removal of the ban on election by secret ballot who have been replaced by labor-management relations law that bears his name.

Taft says he has no intention now of pushing for one change which organized labor would fight bitterly—a ban on company or industry bargaining on a nationwide basis.

Taft will be in position to speed and guide the revision of the Taft-Hartley Act as chairman of the Senate Labor Committee. He held this post in the 80th Congress, when the law was passed, and over President Truman's veto, and has indicated he will take it again.

Sen. Morse of Oregon, also on the labor committee, told a reporter today he would be glad to co-operate in a reworking of the law which he long had assailed. He said he could support a revision patterned on the 1949 amendments if Taft modified his stand on injunctions and secondary boycotts.

Morse backed the Republican nominee Adlai Stevenson in the presidential campaign, declaring himself an independent in the Senate.

The injunction is a key feature of the controversial Taft-Hartley law section aimed at national emergency strikes.

Under the section, the government can obtain an 80-day injunction to prevent a strike if the national safety is imperiled. If a settlement is not reached in that period, the union then can go ahead and walk out.

Taft says he is inclined to leave this national emergency provision alone for the present. He says that it is not perfect but that it never has had the benefit of "sympathetic" administration.

Morse said in the interview he remained convinced that the section will be sponsored unsuccessfully in the 1953 session was the best answer to national emergency labor disputes.

It would leave the 80-day "cooling-off" feature in the law but also would give the president a choice for setting an industry for 60 days to prevent a disastrous strike. The 60-day period could be extended only by act of Congress.

One of the amendments planned by Taft was said to be designed to "cur" inquests and "close loopholes" in the law's section on secondary boycotts.

A secondary boycott occurs when a union strikes against an employer, then attempts to prevent employees of other companies or stores from handling the employer's products. The Taft-Hartley Act outlawed certain kinds of such boycotts.

Unions have argued that the ban permits a struck employer to transfer work to another plant and resume production.

Other amendments being drafted at Taft's direction:

Redefinition of the term "Foreman" to make sure that those excluded from bargaining really are a part of the management.

Removal of penalties against individuals who strike in the waiting period that begins when either company or union notifies the other that the contract terminates in 60 days.

Clarification of relations between the general counsel and the National Labor Relations Board.

Provision for supervision of welfare funds by the Labor Department.

Speeding up of NLRB cases by removing bans on pre-hearing elections and on hearing officers' recommendations.

Taft says these are "basic principles" of the law which must be kept.

Right of free collective bargaining without government dictation, wage fixing or compulsory arbitration.

Right to strike except for the 80-day waiting period in national emergency disputes.

Responsibility of employer and union to carry out contracts.

Prohibition of unfair labor practices on the part of both management and labor. The closed shop and secondary boycotts are included in this ban.

Protection of the right to work.



CITY WORKERS are shown doing their annual chore of raising a canopy of Christmas decorations over downtown stores.

Adlai Shuns Speechmaking

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Gov. Adlai Stevenson says he plans to spend no money for future radio or television addresses until "substantial" campaign deficits are paid off.

The defeated Democratic presidential candidate said yesterday he has received some 70,000 letters and telegrams since the Nov. 4 election. He said in a statement that "Many have urged that I make future radio and television addresses. Some have sent contributions to pay for such appearances, and I understand several local groups have already been organized to purchase radio and television time."

"I am gratified by these expressions of continued interest in what I have to say, but I cannot make precise plans for the future at this time. Further, the Stevenson campaign headquarters in Springfield and the Democratic National Committee both have substantial deficits which I feel should be paid off before funds are raised for any future activities by me. This is my first concern."

Stevenson did not say the amount of the deficit incurred by the campaign.

Striking Cons In Hospital

TRENTON, N. J. (AP) — Eighteen convicts from Trenton State Prison—some of them leaders of last spring's riots—are in the state hospital today as a result of a week-long hunger strike.

The entire group was transferred from a segregation wing last night on the advice of physicians who said the prisoners should be under 24-hour medical supervision.

Acting Warden Lloyd McCorkle said the 18 convicts probably found it difficult to damage anything in the prison's segregation wing so they "apparently decided to damage themselves."

The hunger strikers gave no reason for the action, voiced no complaints and made no demands during their seven days without food, said F. Lovell Bixby, deputy commissioner of institutions and agencies.

They were offered food every day, Bixby said, but turned it down. There was no disturbance anywhere in the prison, he added, even from those convicts transferred from the hospital.

Dresser Traps Woman Invalid

NEW YORK (AP) — A man calling to take his aunt out to Thanksgiving dinner found her pinned under a five-drawer dresser, where she apparently had been trapped for four days.

Miss Emma Benson, 55, a semi-invalid who has lived alone for 10 years, suffered multiple fractures of the spine. Hospital officials said she was in critical condition.

Her nephew, John A. Benson, called police to help him break down the door to her apartment when there was no answer to his knock yesterday. Neighbors hadn't seen her since Sunday.

NW Carloadings At Low Point

SEATTLE (AP) — Northwest freight carloadings dropped to their lowest point in three years during the first 10 months of 1952, the Pacific Northwest Advisory Board reported Wednesday.

The total from January through October was 102,230 cars, comparing with 109,501 a year ago and 107,515 in 1950, board secretary F. T. Westmeyer said.

Westmeyer added, however, that while the overall total was down loadings of lumber and forest products totaled 357,960 cars, the highest since 1942.

Washington, Oregon and Idaho north of the Salmon River are covered in the report.

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Education Program Aids Oregon Prison

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
SALEM (AP) — The five-time loser was taking the other day about prison riots and told why he thinks the Oregon penitentiary hasn't had its share of the nationwide epidemic of prison trouble.

"This is what he said: 'Warden O'Malley's new education and recreation programs are what's holding this place together. The men now have hope that something is being done for them, and convicts don't riot as long as they have hope.'"

This man's an authority on prison life. You would be, too, if you were serving your fifth term as he is.

Under the new educational program, the convicts can take any course from the first grade through college. These courses are provided either by the state school system or the State Board of Higher Education.

There are 250 of the 1,525 convicts now going to school.

Both the educational and recreational programs are being run on a shoestring, but both will be expanded.

The State Education Department gave its three day high school graduation examinations to 16 convicts. Fifteen of them passed, and soon they will take part in the prison's first high school graduation exercises.

The first grade school graduation was held last April, with 11 inmates graduating.

The classes are held in a single large, noisy room, but in a year or so, there will be a modern 17-room school. The men attend classes a half day, and study in their cells.

When a man enters prison, the penitentiary classification committee decides what treatment the man needs to be prepared to go back into society. This committee decides who goes to school.

They have had only a few men who won't study. These men are kicked out of school, as are others who don't show steady progress. Nobody can play hooky from the school because strict attendance records are kept.

There are a dozen convicts who can't read or write. Men like these usually pass the first three or four grades in about four months.

The recreation program is run by Frank Reynolds, a Willamette University graduate of 1951. He's been on the job six months, and already has a full-fledged operation.

There's a six-team football league at the prison, and Reynolds says the men play cleaner football than the big-time college players do. And, he adds, they play as hard.

During the summer, there were eight baseball and six softball teams. Soon the men will play basketball but, since the court is in the open, they won't be able to play on rainy days.

Every night from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. and all day on week ends are the recreation periods. Men who don't go for the team sports can play checkers, chess, shuffleboard, table tennis and bridge in the corridors of the cell blocks.

All this is part of Warden Virgil

O'Malley's aim "to prepare the convicts so they won't come back after they are released."

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