

LABOR'S PROGRAM TO RESTORE BUYING POWER TO U. S. WAGE EARNERS GIVEN TO ROOSEVELT

Halting of Deflationary Processes and Rebuilding of American Living Standards Form Corner Stones of Plan.

BY MAX STERN
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, April 1.—American labor's program for restoring buying power to 30,000,000 working and jobless wage-earners formally will be laid down on President Roosevelt's desk by Labor Secretary Perkins, as the result of the first of a series of labor conferences held at her office.

The sixty-five labor leaders and economists agreed on a set of fundamental reforms which they are eager for the government to support.

The corner stones of the program are the halting of deflationary processes and rebuilding of American living standards. The steps so far agreed upon include:

1. A huge and early public works program, possibly for \$5,000,000,000, to be financed through the sale of baby bonds and expended through federal works and loans to states and communities.

Stressed were such works as will not depress wages and will be most quickly set in motion—slum demolition, grade-crossing elimination, reclamation and other projects.

Shorter Hours Favored

Miss Perkins was given a list of 2,700 needed and deferred construction projects totaling \$2,500,000,000.

This list, prepared by the construction council, would, according to Robert Cohn of the council, provide employment for 2,000,000 men.

2. Shorter hours. The conferees favored the Black-Connery thirty-hour week bill and any other means of attaining shorter hours to absorb the jobless.

3. Minimum wages. Whether these were to be attained by the Hillman plan for wartime wage-fixing labor boards was not determined.

After a long and sympathetic discussion of this proposal the conference voted to leave the question in the hands of a continuing committee composed of William Green, A. F. Whitney of the brotherhoods, Sidney Hillman and Ross Schneiderman, head of the Women's Trade Union League.

4. The early end of child labor, through ratification of the child labor amendment and state regulatory laws.

Protect Living Standards

5. Recognition of the right to organize, through passage of state anti-injunction laws, and such special legislation as is proposed by the coal miners.

6. Protection of American living standards in the administration of relief.

Labor wants a representative on all local relief boards; all supplies for the citizens' conservation corps bought from firms paying fair wages; general administration of relief so as to discourage sweatshop labor trends.

Miss Perkins promised the conference that she would have a labor adviser in the work of enrolling men for the conservation corps.

Other emergency matters on the table were put over till the next conference.

Low Pay Menace Stressed

Meantime, the conference committee will confer with Miss Perkins and President Roosevelt on labor policies.

Although the conference program is incomplete, the full program of labor's two largest groups is before the President. It was framed for the conference by the American Federation of Labor and the rail brotherhoods.

The low-wage menace was emphasized again and again by speakers at the closed conference, who described the spread of sweat-shop standards.

Miss Perkins presented data showing that weekly wages in manufacturing industry in January of this year averaged \$16.68. In some industries average earnings were as low as \$10.

65 Per Cent Wage Decline

While the national income declined 40 per cent between 1929 and 1932 the combined wage payments by factories, railroads and construction activities declined 65 per cent.

"The process of deflation in which all prices and incomes continue to fall will not lead us out of the depression," Sidney Hillman told the session. "It is necessary in the interest of all to establish control over wages, hours and labor conditions on a nation-wide scale."

EXPAND OFFICE SPACE

Corn States Serum Company Moves to New Location.

Removal of the Corn States Serum Company offices from 137 West Market street to larger quarters at 1028 North Illinois street, was announced yesterday by R. P. Jaques, office manager.

The company has installed its own refrigerating space in the new offices. It specializes in hog cholera serum, handling a wide line of veterinary supplies. Dr. James C. Schoenlaub is field representative.

'Wooden Money'

Unemployment and banking troubles resulting from the depression compelled millions of people in the United States to adopt "wooden money" to carry on the necessary economic functions of community life.

Scrip and barter systems have sprung up all over the United States, and by means of them whole communities have kept their economic life alive, enabled unemployed men and women to exchange their labor for the necessities of life, and in many cases have built up strong exchange systems. No fewer than 300 barter organizations, and no less than 100 unemployed groups, trade bodies and municipalities are using scrip in some form.

Our Washington Bureau has ready for you a new bulletin on "Barter and Scrip" which tells all about these interesting experiments, how they were organized and what they are doing. If you are interested, fill out the coupon below and mail as directed:

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STRONGER BILL AGAINST STOCK FRAUDS SOUGHT

Efforts Expected to Widen Scope of Securities Control Measure.

BY RUTH FINNEY
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Attempts to broaden greatly the scope of the administration securities bill will be made in both houses of congress before a final vote is taken.

These follow three general lines, as follows:

One proposes that the federal government take from the states power to incorporate all interstate businesses.

The second would give the federal government power to license corporations engaging in interstate commerce, and to write into all licenses certain regulatory conditions.

The third would concern only the requirement contained in the pending bill for full publicity for companies proposing to sell securities in interstate commerce, but would tighten up the requirements and put more teeth into the administration measure.

Must Register With U. S.

It is probable that only changes of the sort proposed by the third group will be recommended by the Senate and house committees considering the bill. The other proposals will be offered from the floor, under present plans.

Advocates of federal incorporation argue that it would benefit business men as well as the public generally, by protecting corporations against restrictive and discriminatory legislation by the states; and that it would be better for the federal government to say in the beginning what sort of organization shall engage in interstate commerce, rather than engage in litigation later to protect the public interest.

The administration bill simply requires that each corporation register with the federal trade commission, filing a statement showing the company's assets and liabilities and its profits and loss during the preceding year.

Covers All Securities

Data about the nature of the issue, the price at which it is offered to the public, the net amount to be returned to capital investment, the maximum amount of commission, and other details, also must be filed.

The act also makes it unlawful in any sale or promotion of securities to resort to fraud or false pretense, and directs the trade commission to call such cases to the attention of the attorney-general.

While members of congress disputed at their first hearings as to whether the measure as drawn would cover securities already issued as well as those hereafter issued, it was learned on high authority that the administration intends the measure to apply to all present securities that hereafter may be offered for sale.

Trade Commission to Continue

In whatever form the bill finally passes, it guarantees the federal trade commission will continue to exist as an independent agency, in the opinion of those who oppose abolition of that body or transfer of its functions to political control.

Even in its present form the measure conveys on the commission far more extensive duties than any it has performed so far.

An indication of the amount which may be saved to American investors by federal control of securities is found in testimony of Walter R. Miller, chief of the foreign loan division of the commerce department, that half of the fifty billion dollars of securities purchased by the public between 1919 and 1932 were worthless.

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Though pointing out its weaknesses, the minister maintained the church has not lost its vision, but only has "fumbled a bit."

CHICKEN PICKER TRAINS

Wisconsin Champion to Show Skill at World Fair.

By United Press

PHILADELPHIA, April 1.—Criticizing organized religion for "becoming a mere adjunct of the police" and for "false assumption of wisdom on the part of its clergy," Rev. Aaron R. Tosh, pastor of the Christ Reformed church, declared churches "fawn like silly pups" before former millionaires.

The action was a step in Chief Mike Morrissey's campaign to halt the practice of shady lawyers seeking clients by rushing to the scene of accidents or going to their homes, armed with the necessary information obtained from police records.

Morrissey charged that some ambulance chasers go so far as to have radios tuned to receive police radio calls in their cars, sometimes arriving at an accident scene before police.

In the past, he said, it has been common practice for these lawyers, or "runners" employed by them, to rush to police headquarters after each edition of newspapers appear, waving clippings of accident stories, and demanding to see reports on the various accidents recorded.

Frank McHale, No. 1 advisor to McNutt, who is "assisting" Fry in issuing beer permits, lives at the club.

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