

## WILL PEOPLE BE FOOLED AGAIN?

From LABOR'S DAILY (ITU)  
720 Crescent Road, Charleston 2, W. Va.

The overwhelming approval by the House of a greatly liberalized social security program marks one of organized labor's few major victories in the past several sessions of Congress.

Conservative Republicans who have traditionally opposed strengthening the program joined with liberal Democrats to achieve the objective sought by several successive Democratic administrations.

While labor is basking in the warmth of enthusiasm over its success it, of course, will not be lulled into a feeling of false optimism.

The Republican Administration had much more at stake in improving social security than the minority group. This is an election year and the GOP has seen the unmistakable and ominous portents of a Democratic victory in the November elections.

The Eisenhower-voters' honeymoon has long since lost its sweetness if, indeed, the seeds of mistrust and lack of confidence have not been firmly planted in the minds of those who thought it would be so nice to elect a hero general as the nation's Chief Executive.

There is no burning issue such as "I shall go to Korea" for the Republicans. The fast-growing public resentment of mccarthyism and the Joe-Army fiasco, plus failure of the administration to ferret out the alleged Reds-in-government has killed the Communist theme for them.

The Eisenhower regime has emasculated

the public housing program, has given tax bonanzas only to the wealthy and has deprived the farmers of billions of dollars of income. Then there is the fast growing recession.

It has done nothing for labor up to now. Taft-Hartley with all its viciousness remains intact. In fact, its slave-labor provisions would have been made even more oppressive but for the injection of the civil rights issue into the debate over harsh amendments to the law.

The minimum wage is still miserably inadequate, the executive functions of the Labor Department have been usurped, its budget slashed far beyond reason and its top officers gagged.

President Eisenhower's "dynamic" program, prior to the House action on social security, would be more aptly termed a do-nothing program, at least in so far as labor, the farmer, little people and little business are concerned.

And there just aren't enough voters left at General Motors, the other big corporations and among the coupon clippers to assure Republican retention of control of Congress in November.

It is logical, then, to assume that the Republicans' soap and toothpaste advertising experts—with their \$3 million plus slush fund—will make much over the improvement in social security in the Congressional campaign.

After all, some nine million additional people will now be covered by the program and they are fair prey for the "look what we done" claims by the Republican hucksters, if the people can be fooled again.

## POSTAL PAY BILL INADEQUATE ON AT LEAST TWO COUNTS

By CONG. LEE METCALF

It was more than a year ago that postal workers started writing me, documenting their case for a pay raise. I told them I would support a cost-of-living increase. That is, I would if the economy bloc let it out of committee.

The minority wanted salary legislation high on the list of bills to be taken up by the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. The majority insisted that hearings be held first on postal rate increases. And there was talk of an attempt to tie the two together in order to make the rate increases palatable.

A lot of us settled on a bill to give every postal worker a raise of \$800 a year. We were told that postal workers haven't had a raise since July of 1951, that the average worker is \$781 behind the cost of living, that his salary is well below that of production workers in the basic industries and of skilled laborers, that a high percentage of postal workers either have a second job or have their wives working in order to supplement their income, that mail volume is up 33% in the past five years while personnel has increased only 9%.

The the Postmaster General got into the act. Mr. Summerfield recommended reclassification (declassification would have come closer to describing his proposal) of postal positions and a salary increase loaded in favor of upper bracket employees.

Finally the bill was reported. It will give postal workers a pay raise immediately. But it is inadequate on at least two counts. First, the salary increase is only 7%. And second, the raise would be temporary, expiring October 1, 1955.

The percentage formula would do the least for those who need it most—the employees in the lower pay grades. It is estimated that the more than 46,000 workers in the lowest grades will receive increases averaging less than \$5 a week. The maximum is \$9.23, but more than half will receive less than \$6 a week. And if this bill passes, the increases are scheduled to vanish in 15 months.

## Co-op Penalty Tax A Dead Issue This Congress

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(CNS)—Co-op foes won't be able to put a penalty tax on co-ops this session, many congressmen believe.

In letters to Jerry Voorhis, the Co-operative League's executive director, they generally agreed with Robert T. Secrest (D-O), who said, "I do not look for any changes (in co-op tax laws) this session."

Fred Marshall (D-Minn.) thanked Voorhis for pointing out "distortions" in National Tax Equality Association arguments. So did Tom G. Abernethy (D-Miss.). Gardner R. Withrow (R-Wis.) said he's "always believed in encouraging co-operatives. It's even more necessary now."

Paul L. Brown (D-Ga.) said co-ops' present tax status is "fair and equitable." Harold D. Cooley (D-N. Car.) said he'd "be on the lookout" for any attempts to penalize co-ops through taxes, and Harold C. Hagen (R-Minn.) made a similar pledge.

ceive less than \$6 a week. And if this bill passes, the increases are scheduled to vanish in 15 months.

Fortunately, this isn't the last word on how Congress will treat the half-million employees in the Post Office Department's 40,000 offices across our nation.

I hope the bill comes onto the House floor under an "open rule," which would permit amendments from the floor to make the necessary improvements. If we can't fix up the bill in the House, it will be up to the Senate—which still has under consideration bills to provide for substantial increases.

If the Senate votes a higher pay raise than the one approved by the House, it'll be up to a conference committee to give our postal workers the increase they deserve. I will continue to work to this end.

## MYSTERY OF \$75,000 MONOPOLY PROBE STILL MYSTERY

WASHINGTON. — Where's the \$75,000 Senator Langer's anti-monopoly subcommittee asked for in February, 1953? That question was partially resolved last week, but whether the probes will get the money remained a mystery.

Senator William Langer (R-N. Da.) is chairman of the Senate judiciary committee. He is also chairman of the subcommittee looking into monopoly problems. His group had requested funds last year to continue its investigations. But the request got bottlenecked in the Senate rules committee.

When Congress came back in January, there were indications that Langer would get his money. He continued, as best he could, his investigations into the electric power field. There he stepped on the toes of the big power company tycoons as well as the administration's pro-private power policy authors. They didn't like it.

The result was that Langer's request for \$75,000 was buried deeper in the rules committee. Meanwhile, pressure has been building up to get the request released. At last, Senator William Jenner (R-Ind.), chairman of the rules group, decided to delay a showdown vote. He told the committee he was referring the proposals to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., for advice.

Brownell's antitrust division is the executive arm of government which handles antitrust cases. It probably doesn't welcome investigations made by the legislature.

The anti-monopoly committee had scheduled probes into power, oil, gas, and other industries before being blocked by lack of funds.

## City Ties To Rural Electric Co-op

FENNIMORE, Wis.—Instead of buying another diesel engine for the city's electric utility, Fennimore's 1,700 citizens began getting stand-by power from Grant Electric Co-operative, June 10. GEC gets its power from Dairyland Power Co-operative, LaCrosse.

## BOOK ON FORESTRY BY MSU PROFESSOR NOW IN PUBLICATION

A practical book on forestry, entitled "Applied Forest Management," designed to be of value to all private and government practicing foresters, has recently been published by Paul E. Bruns, associate professor of forestry at Montana State University.

According to Montana State Forester Gareth C. Moon, it is a practical book, for practical foresters, which is easy to read, written in down-to-earth, everyday language. Moon has furnished copies to all the key men in his department, to be used as a reference manual.

Problems in all phases of forestry encountered by man in the field are dealt with in the 383 page publication. It is designed for busy field foresters of experience, including the latest developments which will assist in what Bruns terms "the constant quest for more economical and efficient forest management." There are chapters dealing with extensive forestry, intensive forestry, the economics of logging and forestry, forest regulations, business records, and other subjects which combine to make the book a comprehensive source of information for field foresters.

The book includes a chapter on forest roads, written by Thomas A. Walbridge, Jr., assistant professor of forestry at MSU, which Bruns says "present methods not to be found elsewhere in the forestry literature."

The chapter deals with all aspects of forest roads, from definitions of types of forest roads to construction costs, directed at the practicing forester.

Brun says that in the competitive world, it is not enough for the forester to know why things are done, he must also be shown how they are done, in an attempt to achieve good financial as well as ecological results. "Applied Forest Management" is designed to provide the knowledge demanded of forest managers.

## James D. Graham 1954 Scholarship Judges Chosen By Federation

Judges to name the winner of the second annual \$600 James D. Graham college scholarship were announced this week by Montana State Federation of Labor President James S. Umber.

John W. Swackhamer, professor of labor economics; Prof. Herbert Kroeker, also of economics department, and Leroy Hervey, botany department, all of Montana State University, Missoula, will evaluate the papers submitted by high school seniors from all parts of the state.

This year's scholarship award will be presented to the winning senior boy or girl at the federation's 57th annual convention in Billings, August 17-20. The scholarship is good at any accredited public or private university or college in Montana.

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## Western Union Gives Equal Pay Status to Employees Since 1941

WASHINGTON.—(ILNS)—Ending a 14 year old system which kept Western Union Telegraph workers divided into two classes of citizens, about half the 35,000 employees represented by the Commercial Telegraphers Union gained a 16 per cent pay boost June 1 and they'll get another 4 per cent by next June 1.

Under the two year agreement, first ever negotiated without government intervention or a strike, all hourly rated employees also won wage increases of from five to 21 cents an hour and monthly rated workers a minimum of \$8 a month.

Also gained were improved pensions, four week vacation after 30 years of service, many other fringe benefits and an agreement in principle on a formula to protect the jobs of workers affected by Western Union's mechanization program.

The contract was hailed as a "historic landmark" by E.L. Hageman, head of CTU's Western Union division, in its wiping out of the system which had prevailed since November 1, 1941, when Western Union was ordered to comply with the federal wage and hour law.

Those then employed by the company retained their former weekly wage rates, although working 40 hours instead of 48. Workers hired since then were paid only on a basis of 40 times the old hourly rate. The new agreement brought all workers to equal parity.

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