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## MITCHELL BACKS I. L. O.

Secretary of Labor Scorns  
Suggestion U. S. Quit

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON Jan. 11 —

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell scorned today a suggestion that the United States withdraw from the International Labor Organization.

William L. McGrath, the employer delegate, has disclosed that he wrote to President Eisenhower suggesting the withdrawal because delegates from Iron Curtain countries were being recognized as representing free employers.

Mr. Mitchell, who is the Presi-

dent's principal labor adviser, commented: "It has been and is the policy of the United States to participate in the I. L. O. There is no question in my mind that it will continue to be the policy. This matter has not been raised by anyone we know of except one individual named McGrath."

The I. L. O., composed of government, employer, and worker delegates, is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It works toward elevating economic standards of workers throughout the world.

New York Times

1/12/56

# U.S. Delegate Campaigns For Withdrawal From I.L.O.

William L. McGrath is a man who prides himself on his reputation as a "tool of Wall Street."

This reputation is the outgrowth of his job as employer delegate from the U.S. to the International Labor Organiza-



Star-Bulletin Photo

William L. McGrath

tion, a United Nations agency dedicated to bettering workers' economic standards.

The I.L.O. has as its members labor, management and government groups from 71 countries—many of them Communist nations.

## FAVORS WITHDRAWAL

Right now, McGrath is waging a personal campaign to get the U.S. to withdraw from the I.L.O. His reasons are simple.

The I.L.O., McGrath says, was set up as a tripartite organization — representing management, labor, and government—the only one of its kind in the world.

But admission of Communist countries into the organization ruined this.

"Let's face it," McGrath says. "There are no employers or labor leaders in Russia. In the I.L.O. the Red government tries to represent both."

McGrath maintains this is a violation of the I.L.O.'s principles.

## POWERFUL GROUP

"This organization is a powerful one," he says. "It's a world parliament—which plans to pass all the social laws for the entire world."

With Communists dominating the I.L.O., McGrath says it is also a dangerous organization.

"On any given issue, there are only about 170 votes cast," he says. "A majority of 86 is all that's needed — and the Communists have a powerful bloc of 32 votes. Wish we had that many."

Bills passed by the I.L.O. are called "conventions." McGrath says these conventions are equal to world treaties in power.

"It is the obligation of each member nation, under the charter, to pass these conventions on to the executive branch of its government. And it's their responsibility to see they are carried out.

"You figure it. With Communists dominating the I.L.O., this is really dangerous," McGrath says.

## MITCHELL'S ATTITUDE

U.S. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, chief opponent to McGrath's proposal for withdrawal from the I.L.O., has stated publicly that McGrath is fighting a one-man crusade.

But the Cincinnati businessman got recent support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, who jointly elect the U.S. employer delegate to the I.L.O.

Both organizations recently passed resolutions backing McGrath's demand for withdrawal.

Meanwhile, though, McGrath has some phrases he's been polishing in answer to Red charges of Wall Street connections.

"I call 'em 'professional purveyors of prevarication,'" he says. "It makes 'em hopping mad."

McGrath, who is addressing the Honolulu Rotary Club today at Queen's Surf, is staying at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

With him is Robert Herman, vice-president of McGrath's firm, the Williamson Heater Company, of Cincinnati.

The two men will address the Hawaii Employers Council seminar on industrial relations at the Queen's Surf tomorrow.

## Truth Can't Fight Red Lies, U.S. Delegate to I.L.O. Says

William L. McGrath of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a dedicated American who believes, after almost seven years of personal experience, that you can't fight Communist lies effectively with the truth alone about the American free enterprise system.

He has been the U.S. employer delegate to the International Labor Organization of the United Nations and is now an employer member of the I.L.O.'s governing body.

He believes that the United States should get out of the I.L.O. and leave the Communists and Socialists to fight each other, instead of continuing to offer them the opportunity to use the organization as a platform from which to "spread poison" about the American economic system.

"I've been fighting this thing since 1949," Mr. McGrath said here today, "but the people of the world aren't interested in our way of doing things. They listen to the lies spread about us by the Communists."

### POSITION BACKED

Mr. McGrath's position is pretty solidly backed by the organizations which nominated him to his position—the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

But the U.S. Government's official view—and that of key officials in the Government—is opposed to McGrath's position.

Here's the way McGrath sees it:

He's a successful businessman, president of the Williamson Heater Company of Cincinnati, employer of some 750 workers, a relatively small business with no direct interest

in international affairs, business or otherwise.

"There's no place in the world," he says, "and I've seen a lot of the world, where I could have accomplished for myself and my associates what I have been able to do in this country.

"I've served our Government, in a way, in an effort to pay back to this country some of the things it has given me

### FACED CHARGES

For seven years—as an adviser to the U.S. employer delegation to the 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 annual I.L.O. conferences, as employer delegate in 1954 and 1955, and now as governing body member — McGrath has faced up to Communist charges on the floor and in the committees of the I.L.O. and has tried to counter these "vicious attacks" with the truth about American business and American life.

In return, he says, he has succeeded only in hearing himself labeled "a tool of Wall Street" and the facts of American life lost in a barrage of Communist propaganda about America spread throughout the world at the expense of the I.L.O.

And, he notes, the United States has paid one quarter of the cost of the I.L.O. "and now they want us to pay more."

"I'm not a tool of Wall Street," McGrath says, "and I don't want to be called one, it has an evil connotation.

"I'm representing all the employers in the United States, the small ones particularly. It's ridiculous to call me a tool of Wall Street, but it hurts.

"I'm just a small businessman."

# ILO Red Take-over Charged

By SPENCE BRADY

The president of a heater company who gets as hot as his products when he warns Communists are taking over the International Labor Organization is speaking up in Honolulu.

He's William L. McGrath, leader of a fight to get the United States to withdraw from the ILO.

Today he discusses industrial relations before the Hawaii Employers Council, the purpose of his visit here.



**YESTERDAY HE** tore into the subject "Fighting Another Cold War with Russia" before a well-attended Rotary meeting at Queen's Surf.

Six times Mr. McGrath has been to annual ILO conferences in Geneva. At the last two, 1954 and 1955, he signed in as the U.S. employer delegate.

What he saw and heard at those

recent conferences adds up, according to a statement he made before a congressional committee last week and repeated here, to belief that "the ILO is destined to become in the main a great international forum for the dissemination of Communist propaganda, with the United States paying 25 per cent of the cost."

**THE ILO WAS** originated in 1919 to bring government, labor and employer representatives together to "discuss the problems directly affecting labor," Mr. McGrath recalled.

"During the years following 1945, the ILO, led by the Socialist government-labor coalition which dominated it, concentrated its major efforts upon the drafting of proposed international laws, far beyond the field of labor itself, which it hoped by the device of convention ratification could be imposed upon most of the countries of the world.

"Then, in 1954 and 1955, came the next phase of the ILO — which I term the Communist invasion."

**THE "INVASION"** was accomplished by the rejoining of Russia, reinforced by its satellites, Mr. McGrath told the Rotarians.

Voting delegates to the ILO are four from each of 71 member countries. Two are from government, one from labor, one from employer ranks.

Mr. McGrath contended unsuccessfully that in Communist countries there was no free labor nor business, and that all delegates therefore were "government."

For this opinion, which he expressed in an attempt to prevent seating of Russian and satellite country delegates, he said, he was chided by U. S. government representatives.

**NOW, HOWEVER,** he reports, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers have agreed by formal resolution that the ILO no longer is a place for U. S. membership.

Mr. McGrath is a director of NAM, a trust company, a bank, a newspaper and a tile company; president of Williamson Heater Co., and active in Cincinnati, O., community affairs.

Under a multiple management system he set up, he needs spend only one-fifth of his time with heater company affairs.

**IN HIS CRUSADE** against American support of the ILO, he has had published a report of the "Communist issue" in the 1955 conference. Some copies were distributed to Rotarians yesterday.

In both the pamphlet and his Washington, D. C., statement, he tags nationalization of all industry an aim of Communist country's ILO delegates.

Prompting a few mutterings in his Rotarian audience was his report that one of the proposals originally included in an ILO draft of an international law would have in effect made all life insurance compulsory—and illegal unless the government paid at least 25 per cent of the premium.

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### The I.L.O. Under Attack

The International Labor Organization is an agency of the United Nations. Its purposes are to contribute to the establishment of a lasting peace by promoting social justice; to improve, through international action, labor conditions and living standards, and to promote economic and social stability.

It had its beginning in the League of Nations. It survived the parent organization to become a powerful international forum for discussion of labor problems.

It is made up of equal representation from labor, management and government designated by the 71 participating countries.

Its record over the years has been one of quiet usefulness, and it has enjoyed the support of the leaders of the American labor movement.

But there is one member of the American delegation to I.L.O. who thinks this country should withdraw from the organization. He is William L. McGrath, employer delegate

from the United States, recent visitor.

The basis of his opposition to continued membership in I.L.O. is that the Communist nations, which are members, cannot participate on the labor-management-government team basis because in those countries government tries to speak for all three.

Furthermore, the Communists, with 32 votes (a majority is 86) wield far too much influence in the organization to suit Mr. McGrath. He fears that Communist strength will impose Red domination on I.L.O. and, through it, on the United States.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, no friend of Communists, opposes Mr. McGrath's proposal for withdrawal and has stated publicly that Mr. McGrath is conducting a one-man crusade.

There is a need for an organization such as I.L.O. Its survival when the League of Nations fell is evidence of that. But we must remain alert to guarantee that its usefulness is not destroyed by Red subversion.

HON. STAR BULLETIN

MAR 9 1956

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### Finding Value in the I.L.O.

Some weeks ago, William L. McGrath, employer delegate to the International Labor Organization from the United States, passed through Honolulu and said the U.S. should get out of the I.L.O.

He said the organization—made up of representatives of labor, employers and government—is Communist-dominated.

He pointed out that the Communist countries could not have employer representatives because in those countries employer and government are inseparable.

That's not the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. Uncle Sam's attitude is set forth in a memorandum by J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

He says there is no evidence that Communists dominate the organization:

"Communist participation on the 40-member governing body, which is the principal policy organ of the I.L.O., is on the ratio of 1 to 39. In the I.L.O. conference, the potential voting strength of the eight Communist countries included in the 71-country membership is 32 votes of a total of 284 potential votes in the conference.

"Of the approximate 200 memberships on the 10 industrial committees of the I.L.O., only two are held by Russian satellites. The U.S.S.R. itself is not a member of any of the industrial committees.

"The I.L.O. has utilized no Russian funds, contributed to the United Nations Technical Assistance Program, in its technical assistance activities. It is the only specialized agency of the U.N. that has not utilized such funds. Neither has it utilized any Russian technicians."

The I.L.O., furthermore, has no coercive power over its member governments. It serves in an advisory capacity and achieves its aims primarily through publication of the results of its studies.

One such study, now being undertaken, is a study of slave labor—something the Soviet Union is most anxious not to have studied.

Mr. Wilkins adds:

"Our freedoms and our form of government are

in no way endangered by our participation in the I.L.O. The I.L.O. has no coercive power to impose any standard on any of the member countries.

"If we were to withdraw from the Organization, however, and if Communist influence in and through the Organization were to be increased thereby, the Russian objective of using the I.L.O. as another instrumentality to promote influences in the world that are antagonistic to our freedoms and form of government would be enhanced.

"Our role in the I.L.O. is not defensive. The I.L.O. is an invaluable forum of world opinion for the United States. The United States Government, Employers and Workers can assume effective leadership in the Organization, which serves the interests of the United States in world peace, social and economic stability and strengthening democratic influences in the free world, and protects U.S. labor standards and business interests from unfair competition."

There is much more to the statement, all of which argues in favor of our continuing support of this program which had its origin in the old League of Nations in 1919.

Mr. McGrath has been identified by U.S. Labor Department officials as a "lone voice" crying out in dissent against this organization.

Because of prominence given here to his criticism, the position of the U.S. government should be well understood.

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## Advisory Group Backs I.L.O. After Employers' Criticisms

Continued "effective and vigorous" participation by the United States in the International Labor Organization has been recommended by a special advisory committee in a report received here.

The group was set up by the Departments of State, Labor and Commerce after certain employer charged the I.L.O. was a "failure" and was being used as a "propaganda forum."

It was asked to study "the effect of the activities and functions of the I.L.O. in terms of U.S. national interest," according to Ralph S. Myers, Labor Department representative.

The committee found the I.L.O. helps close the gap in

labor standards throughout the world and can be used by the U.S. to promote industrial democracy and efficiency.

It recommended strongly against withdrawal and said damage to American interest and prestige among the people of Asia and Africa would be severe.

It recommended instead to:

1—Increase emphasis by the I.L.O. on technical assistance to countries in the field of labor and management relations.

2—Continue the structure of representatives from labor, management and government.

3 — Develop policy objectives for U.S. participation in the I.L.O.

### MEMBERS NAMED

The committee was made up of chairman Joseph Johnson, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Robert Gray of California Institute of Technology; Frederick H. Harbison of Princeton; Charles (Myers) of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Howard Petersen of Fidelity Philadelphia Trust Company.

HON. STAR BULLETIN

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## U.S. Bars Beck From Conference

WASHINGTON, March 4 (UP)—The government today refused to nominate Dave Beck, head of the Teamsters Union, as its delegate to an international labor conference in Germany next week.

In refusing to nominate Beck, Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell removed one of the reasons Beck has given for failing to return here to appear before the special Senate Committee investigating labor racketeering.

SEN. KARL E. MUNDT (R-S.D.), a committee member, said Mitchell's action will "bring to a head" the question of whether Beck will appear to testify. Mundt congratulated Mitchell for his "cooperative attitude."

AFL-CIO President George Meany, who recommended Beck last year as the U.S. delegate, said he was "not surprised" at Mitchell's move. Meany said he will try to select a substitute delegate but is not sure he can name one in time for the conference.

Beck had been recommended as a delegate to the International Labor Organization's transportation conference at Hamburg last December. This was before his big union became the target of the Senate committee.

MITCHELL POINTED out that the Senate Rackets Committee has invited Beck "to appear and testify before it."

"He has thus far failed to do so, giving as the reason, among others, that he expected to be out of the country attending the inland transport committee meetings in Hamburg," Mitchell said.

Therefore, Mitchell said, "I have decided not to nominate Mr. Beck as a member of the U. S. delegation to the Hamburg conference."

MITCHELL MADE the announcement after conferring with Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) of the Senate committee. It was understood that McClellan briefed Mitchell on the committee's records on Beck. McClellan did not attempt to advise Mitchell what he should do, it was said.

Mitchell said he will ask Meany "to recommend to me a substitute" nominee for Beck.

The ILO, a 77-national group affiliated with the United Nations, is dedicated to the betterment of working conditions throughout the world.

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**U.S. Delegate**

# Peterson Home From Geneva Labor Meeting

E. B. Peterson, Territorial director of labor and industrial relations, returned Sunday from Geneva, Switzerland, where he was a U.S. delegate to the International Labor Conference.

At the conference he had a ringside seat at another round in the continuing struggle between the U.S. and Soviet Russia in parliamentary debate.

MR. PETERSON was the U.S. representative on the plantation department of the conference. He was personally selected for the assignment by Secretary of Labor James Mitchell.

The U.S. team included an assistant secretary from both the Labor and State Departments, two members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 28 other members.

More than 800 delegates from 78 nations attended. These included a full-scale team from Russia and from satellite countries.

IT WAS THE first time that a plantation committee discussion was on the agenda.

"It was the first effort to improve the working conditions of the millions of persons on plantations," said Mr. Peterson, "especially, the conditions of workers on plantations in Equatorial Africa, India and Southeast Asia."

There was seldom the chance to talk about conditions on Hawaii's plantation, chiefly because conditions here are so much better than almost anywhere else.

THE SUBJECT of forced labor in the Soviet Union came up, but not in Mr. Peterson's committee. He had a chance to listen in, though. "It was an extremely interesting discussion and a test of power between the U.S. and Russia," said Mr. Peterson.

He said there was sharp and prolonged debate on the

efforts of Hungary to seat a delegation. The delegations were supposed to be made up of workers and employers, as well as government representatives.

"IT WAS apparent that the Hungarian delegation would not contain any employer and worker groups, but would be directed by Russia," said Mr. Peterson.

The labor official left here May 24. His committee finished its work June 24.

"It was most impressive and interesting in the extreme," he summed up the conference.

HONOLULU ADVERTISER

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## Program Outlined to Help World's Plantation Workers

A bold move to improve the working and living conditions and the welfare of millions of plantation workers throughout the world is reported by E. B. Peterson, head of the Territorial Labor Department, who helped to set the goal.

Peterson was picked to represent the government on the U.S. delegation to the International Labor Organization's Work on Plantation Committee during its recent meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

He said 30 nations were represented, with delegates from each country from government, worker and employer groups.

Conditions on Hawaii plantations are so good that they can't be compared with those in other parts of the world, he said.

Statements by worker representatives from Equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia brought out the fact that substandard working and living conditions were the rule rather than the exception in their areas, Peterson said.

### LIST OBJECTIONS

The meetings, which lasted almost the whole month of June, listed the following objectives:

1—Protection for those recruited for work, especially away from home.

2—Determination of wages by collective bargaining shall be encouraged.

3—Annual holidays with pay after a period of continuous service.

4—Women should be entitled to maternity leave.

5—Workmen's compensation is urged for workers injured on the job.

### RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

6—Workers and employers shall have the right to organize with minimum interference by government.

7—A system of labor inspection shall be enforced to protect the worker and the employer.

8—Adequate housing shall be provided.

9—Adequate medical facilities shall be provided for workers and their families.

These objectives were recommended by the committee and adopted at a plenary session of the I.L.O. convention and will come up for final adoption at the 41st session of the I.L.O. next year in Geneva.

Peterson said Russia and her satellites had full delegations and used every opportunity to press their propaganda.

# World Labor Forum

By JAMES P. MITCHELL

Secretary of Labor of the United States

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — While Victor Riesel was in Europe he asked President Eisenhower's Secretary of Labor to write a special guest column to appear on Labor Day. This is it.

**WASHINGTON**—When I was in Geneva earlier this summer I spoke for our government at one of the world's most unusual forums. There East does meet West in a constant battle of ideas. These clashes occur at sessions of the International Labor Organization (ILO).



The importance of the ILO as a great forum of the UN was clearly exemplified at that 40th ILO Conference.

The attention of the world was focused on such crucial matters as forced labor, individual freedom and the improvement of working conditions throughout the world.

\* \* \* \*

In the important conflict of ideas and ideals the ILO is a uniquely significant forum. While it is similar to other UN specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization, it has one special characteristic which sets it apart from all other international forums. That is its tri-partite composition.

In the ILO workers, employers and governments from the 78 member nations gather—each, according to the constitution, independent of the other; each bound to seek as he thinks best the betterment of workers throughout the world.

Naturally some serious and deep disagreements arise in the ILO. The final result is good for the free nations, however, because ideals of freedom and individual dignity are made to stand the test of competition. Those beliefs which we cherish thrive best when they are challenged. It is through successfully resisting the challenge to our economic, social and political institutions that the strength of freedom and democracy is demonstrated.

\* \* \* \*

At that session the ILO completed an agreement which provides that each nation prohibit the use of forced labor within its jurisdiction. The United States Government and workers pressed for the agreement with diligence and have consistently thwarted Communist efforts to hide from world opinion the facts of agonizing torture and enslavement behind the Iron Curtain.

This pact declares to all the world that forced labor should be abolished. It also labels forced labor as that particular form of compulsion which the UN and the ILO have shown to be widely practiced in Communist countries.

The ILO this year also considered the matter of discrimination in employment. This gave the United States an excellent opportunity to lay before the world the extraordinary accomplishments which have been made in recent years with respect to eliminating racial discrimination in our country. Our recital of these accomplishments in the opening days of the conference won respect for the United States around the world.

\* \* \* \*

While relatively few of the goals and standards set by the ILO have direct application in the United States, because of our own existing high standards, they are of real value to our nation. They assist other countries to improve the conditions of work and living standards, thus contributing to worldwide trade and economic stability.

For example, several standards adopted some years ago providing for improved working conditions in the maritime industry have been of real help to the U. S. maritime industry. For as pay and working conditions improve in the maritime industries of other nations, so our maritime industry will benefit by the improvement of its competitive position.

\* \* \* \*

While a good deal of publicity attends the annual conference of the ILO where resolutions and recommendations are argued out, all through the year the ILO quietly and effectively carries on what is rapidly becoming its most important function—technical assistance to newly developing areas of the world.

In 1956, for example, the ILO sent 289 experts to 58 countries and territories, helping to improve training, develop better conditions of employment, better labor-management relations and to make other practical achievements of lasting benefit to their people.

\* \* \* \*

The deep-seated drive on the part of all people for the fulfillment of their aspirations for a better life will not weaken or fail. It will grow stronger, and this is as it should be.

Through the ILO and the UN we can with wisdom and ingenuity help the people of the world to attain this fulfillment so that they can enjoy the material achievements of our time and also retain the freedom and dignity so necessary to all mankind.