

Urge Keep Labor Law

Retail Stores Ask Safeguards

By International News Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Congress was urged today to keep the Taft-Hartley law to safeguard five million retail store workers from "coercion or fear" during an all-out union organization drive.

The National Association of Manufacturers also told Congress the best way to avert "national emergency" strikes is to regulate industry-wide bargaining.

("Practically without exception the instances in which the nation has been confronted with these emergencies have been those involving various degrees of industry-wide bargaining," said Ira Mosher, a member of NAM's executive committee.

(He did not go into detail on additional regulation.)

UNIONS COMPETING

S. J. Fosdick, of the National Dry Goods Association, told the Senate Labor Committee that a C. I. O. union and three A. F. L. unions now are competing in a multi-million dollar campaign to sign up retail stores. He declared:

"It is bound to be confusing to both management and employees.

"If the employees are to exercise their free choice in an intelligent manner in the absence of coercion or fear, rules of fair conduct should be prescribed and specifically set forth by legislative enactment."

URGES RETENTION

Fosdick, who is vice president of Chicago's Wieboldt Stores, urged retention of the Taft-Hartley law's guarantee of free speech to employers, its injunctive weapon and ban on union boycotts, coercion, unfair labor practices and closed shops.

Edgar S. Idol, general counsel of the American Trucking Association, said the Taft-Hartley boycott ban is vital to his industry. Idol declared:

"The trucking industry has long been used as a most effective organizing weapon by unions affiliated with the A. F. L. Employees of producers and processors have been organized by the simple expedient of having teamster union members refuse to serve the enterprise."