



The Charlotte Labor Journal

Official Organ of the
Labor Union; endorsed by
State Federation of Labor

Truthful, Honest, Impartial

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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GORMAN SAYS U. T. W. WILL FIGHT ANY EFFORT TO THROW LABOR BACK INTO INDUSTRIAL SLAVERY STATE

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Action of the Supreme Court in voiding code provisions of the NRA tonight drew from organized labor threats of strikes against any textile mill that departs from code provisions regarding wages, hours and other terms of employment.

In a bristling statement, Francis J. Gorman, vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America, said labor "shall not forsake the gains that have been made" under the textile code—No. 1 under the NRA.

"This whole decision is a challenge to labor, and labor, at least so far as our organization is concerned, will meet that challenge," the statement asserted. "We had hoped we had reached a field where issues could be decided by deliberation on merit.

"If we are to thrust back into battle, we have fought before and we can and will fight again. I am now warning our membership to be ready and to strike instantly against any mill that departs from code provisions regarding wages, hours, or other terms of employment."

Gorman said the decision appeared to mean "an effort to thrust us (labor) back into industrial slavery of two years ago."

"We shall not go back," the statement declared. "We shall not forsake the gains that have been made."

Gorman said the industry agreed to the code provisions, and added: "Regardless of the court's decision, we look to industry to keep its word, to hold the gains, to refuse to return to the 60-hour week and to child labor and to all of the fiendish evils that beset the industry before NRA."

LOOKING TO CONGRESS

Gorman also declared organized labor was looking to Congress to "act with speed and with courage" to clear the confusion.

"Surely the fate of millions of workers today hangs in the balance and Congress must realize its responsibility, not to debate endlessly, but to act speedily and with clarity," he said.

Meanwhile the court's decision threw into worse confusion than ever the already badly complicated textile situation.

A special cabinet meeting, consisting of Secretaries Hull, Wallace, Roper, and Perkins, has been studying the appeals of cotton manufacturers for elimination of the cotton processing tax, protection against Japanese imports, production control and, in the case of the north, elimination of section wage differentials.

MILLS SILENT

Spokesmen for textile management were silent on the decision today, pending a close study of the ruling.

The cotton textile industry, badly demoralized when its code was drawn in June of 1933, has had rocky sailing since, despite a rather noticeable gain in the first six months under NRA. In September of 1934 it, with other sections of the textile industry, went through a bitter general strike, and in recent months scores of mills have forced to close.

The chief fear in the minds of the mill operators is a return to the chaotic conditions of overproduction which prevailed before the NRA stepped in with a limitation of machine operation, set originally for two 40-hour weekly shifts, with provisions for curtailment when reduced operation seemed necessary. Some sections of the industry at present are operating under curtailed sections.

MASS MEETING OF WORKERS AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY, AT 3 P. M.—McMAHON OR FRANCIS GORMAN TO SPEAK

A mass meeting of Textile and other workers will be held at Central High School Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock it was announced Tuesday night, and either Phil McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, or Francis Gorman, vice-president of the same organization will head the list of speakers, who will talk on the condition and needs of the workers, and the present crisis caused by the overthrow of the NRA by the United States Supreme Court.

JOE THOMAS, SALISBURY MACHINIST, DIES IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT
SPENCER, May 26.—Fatally injured in an automobile accident on the main thoroughfare in Spencer yesterday afternoon, Joe Thomas, 35, died on reaching the Rowan General hospital a few minutes after the accident.

He is survived by his wife, who before her marriage was Miss Zula Plyler of Concord. Mr. Thomas, a machinist of the Southern Railway here, also is survived by his father, J. Lee Thomas; two brothers, Raymond Thomas of Charlotte and William Thomas of Spencer, and one sister, Miss Kathleen Thomas of Spencer.

"FIRST LADY" FOR UNIONS

The "gospel of bona fide trade unionism has been preached in vigorous fashion by the First Lady of the land.

In a recent radio broadcast, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt expounded the doctrine that profit for the few at the expense of the many is threatening the very existence of the present social order. She insisted that reactionary industrialists who are seeking to block the New Deal are pursuing an extremely narrow and selfish policy through which they hope to return to old practices.

The gracious and extremely human mistress of the White House took sharp issue with employers and others who ignorantly or maliciously slander bona fide organizations of labor.

"Many people come to me and say, 'The labor union is a menace; look at the advantage it takes when it gets strong,'" Mrs. Roosevelt declared. "I often wonder if they ever stop to think of what happened before there were labor unions and what happens today in industries where labor unions are weak.

"We have got to build on a cooperative basis. Our industrial leaders should really know what their workers' conditions are and make an honest effort to improve them. We must clean house in industry as well as in politics."

LABOR RACKETEERING IN CHARLOTTE CONDEMNED BY CENTRAL LABOR UNION

Racketeering in the name of Organized Labor in Charlotte in the advertising, publicity and co-operative field brought forth the following resolution, which was unanimously passed Tuesday, January 21, by Central Labor Union:

"Resolved, That the Charlotte Labor Journal is recognized in Charlotte as the only official paper of this section, and that merchants and business concerns are warned against outsiders soliciting advertisements or funds in the name of Labor, unless they have secured the sanction of Central Labor Union. For information merchants and business men may call The Journal at 3-4855, or Central Labor Union, 9185. The motion carried unanimously."

BY HARRY BOATE

SHUDDER

PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS

A few years ago several stories of a semi-comic nature came to my ears and I will now try to put them in type, if memory permits.

A man who had suffered a mental breakdown was placed for repairs in a private sanitarium. He had been there for some time, under careful observation and treatment of a physician, and was making fine progress toward complete recovery. One morning the physician had made the customary examination of the patient, was much pleased with the progress, and made known to him the cheerful news that, should he continue to improve as had been the case, in about two weeks he would be on his way home.

Much cheered by this bit of good news the patient sat down to write a letter to his wife, conveying to her the information that she was soon to have her husband once more with her. As he was about to close the letter the doctor passed the open door of the room and the man halted him with the question: "Doctor, how soon did you say I could go home?" The doctor repeated the statement that in about two weeks he would be discharged as cured. The man wrote down the news, sealed the envelope, and was about to place a stamp for mailing, having moistened it with his tongue. About that time a gust of air blowing in the window took the stamp from his fingers. It fluttered toward the floor, alighting squarely on the back of a red roach, which was passing unseen at the time. The sudden weight on its back frightened the roach, which immediately went into third gear and raced across the floor, on up the side wall and onto the ceiling. The poor man, unaware of what had taken place, saw his postage stamp race across the floor, and up the wall. His eyes were as big as saucers as he looked on, then he remarked: "Home in two weeks! Like H—! I'll never see home again." We hope he had the wrong idea.

The man who told me the above story told me also some incidents in his own life, many of which were real interesting. The man had himself been in such an institution, as a light paralytic stroke had dethroned his reasoning powers and he had been in a hospital for some time, finally emerging with clear mental machinery, although somewhat crippled physically. He said that all the while his mind was in a haze there was a uniformed boy at his side during all of his waking moments, and that he held regular conversations with him, and would give orders, but he never did say if any of the orders had been carried out. He did say, however, that his wife often chided him for talking to himself, but he continued by stating that the colored boy was just as visible to him as were any of his family. That man has today a very strong and bright mind.

Just a little personal experience—or was it a dream? Do your own guessing.

Quite a few years ago my wife and I moved into other quarters. While it was an old house in good repair, yet it was a new home to us. On the night of the day we moved, having worked hard during the day, we retired for a much needed rest, and as for myself can say I was getting that rest, when suddenly I saw standing in the doorway leading into the room the figure of what appeared to be a human being, clad entirely in black from head to foot, with no facial features visible, the arms folded closely across the chest. No words were spoken, no sound made, as it slowly and deliberately advanced toward my bed. Arriving there, it slowly leaned down over me, and I raised both arms and brought them together, with the idea of embracing whatever the visitor should prove to be. As I did so the apparition disappeared as my eyes opened, and I found my arms tightly hugging myself. I told my wife it was my intention to choke the thing if it was a man, or to hug it should it be a woman. I was deprived of either pleasure.

Whether or not that was a dream I can not say, but in many years of residence in that house, the visitor never came back.

MASS MEETING AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL LAST SATURDAY NIGHT WAS SUCCESS—MANY GOOD TALKS

Considering it was Saturday night, when a majority of our citizenship were seeking week-end diversion, there was a goodly assemblage at Central High school to hear talks on the NRA (now deceased) the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, the Black 30-hour bill, etc. The meeting was presided over by George J. Kendall, in the absence of J. H. Fullerton the announced chairman.

Hon. William F. Scholl led off with a talk on the NRA and dealt with other matters having to do with state legislation over Raleigh way pertaining to labor. He made a good talk, and it is needless to say that Mr. Scholl holds a warm place in the hearts of the workers in North Carolina.

Leonard J. Green, an A. F. of L. organizer, now stationed at Greensboro talked forcibly on the Wagner labor disputes bill, and his address demonstrated the fact that Mr. Green not only knew his subject, but knew how to get it over in the ordinary parlance that made it understandable.

Next came Representative Hailey of the Bookbinders International, who, in his usual way, being blunt, and to the point, made a good impression upon his hearers. The last talk was made by John Peel, of Greenville, S. C. who took in all the Labor bills now before Congress. Mr. Peel is a vice-president of the United Textile Workers of America and one of the most forceful speakers and workers for Labor in the South. He delivered a strong address, and dealt in facts and figures as regards to the textile industry, setting at rest the claim of the advanced state of the textile workers. His talk took on several new angles to any the writer has yet heard as to the textile situation.

The meeting voted to send copies of the resolutions to President Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, Senators Reynolds and Bailey and all members of the House of Representatives from North Carolina.

Whereas, the recently announced decision of the Workers Assignment Board in declaring that there only existed a very few cases of stretchout in textile plants of the country is so obviously untrue, and seems to be utterly biased in its findings, and

Whereas, we, as textile workers, for years are in position to know beyond doubt as to whether we have suffered stretchouts; and as of our own certain knowledge, stretchouts have, and do, exist. Therefore, we, a group of textile workers, in mass meeting, assembled at Charlotte, N. C., on May 25, 1935, do hereby register our sincere and emphatic disapproval and denial of the purported findings of the Wage Assignment Board, and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this protest be sent to the Workers Assignment Board, and other officials affected, to the Labor Press, and the U. T. W. of A.

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Whereas, there is now before Congress a bill, known as the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill; and, whereas, since it is apparent the Labor section of NRA, Section 7A, is totally inadequate to protect labor in its constitutional rights; and, whereas, it is our belief that the passage of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill will go far to bring about peace and harmony in the relationship of employer and employee, as it sets up definite methods for the settlement of disputes and differences arising during the course of employment, and grants labor the right to bargain collectively under the recognized and just principle of majority rule;

"Therefore, be it resolved that we, a group of workers in mass meeting, assembled this 25th day of May, 1935, at Charlotte, N. C., urgently request all members of Congress from the State of North Carolina to lend their active support to securing the passage of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, the Two Year Extension of the NRA, the Thirty-Hour-Week Bill, and other labor legislation favored by the American Federation of Labor; and

"Be it further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be sent to each member of Congress, to the Labor Press, and to the United Textile Worker of America.

ILLNESS OF RAY NIXON

It is with regret that we note the illness of Ray Nixon, president of Charlotte Typographical Union. Mr. Nixon has been confined to his home the past week or so, and is now, we learn, suffering from a case of "flu." He has been quite active the past month or two in matters pertaining to the Labor movement and his illness is attributed as a kind of "break-down." Here's hoping he will soon be out and doing.

Mrs. W. Z. Smith Wins "Miracle" Prize in Journal Advt. Contest

Week before last The Labor Journal carried an advertisement of the "enigma" nature for "Miracle," Charlotte Laundry, Inc., and it read "Mi-Is-Su-To-Or-Dr-Cl." The first correct answer was to get the \$5 cash prize Mrs. W. Z. Smith, of 714 Central avenue got in the first correct reply, and there were a great many answers. The conglomeration of letters worked themselves into the following sentence:

"Miracle is Superior to Ordinary Dry Cleaning." We congratulate Mrs. Smith and thank our readers for the interest they took in the contest.

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U. S. SUPREME COURT KILLS THE NRA; JUDGES A UNIT AS TO ILLEGALITY OF ACT THAT SAVED THE COUNTRY FROM CAPITALISTIC DESTRUCTION

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The NRA, its vast code structure tumbled by a sweeping Supreme Court decision of unconstitutionality, tonight suspended "all methods of compulsory enforcement."

On Monday a few hours after the high court held unanimously that the President had been given too much "unsettled" authority in proclaiming codes, and that code provisions went too far in regulations affecting intrastate commerce, the administration took two preliminary steps.

Donald Richberg, NRA administrator, after a conference with President Roosevelt, issued a plea that employers continue to operate under their codes until some new structure could be reared.

In the same statement Richberg added: "This decision of the court makes codes of fair competition unenforceable as a matter of law; and, in deference to that ruling, all methods of compulsory enforcement of the codes will be immediately suspended.

"This will not affect the enforcement of any contractual obligations which may have arisen by agreement of the parties requiring no sanction of a Federal authority."

In his statement after the White House Conference, Richberg said: "We face now the question of maintaining the gains which have been made in the last two years and retaining the values which have been created under the National Recovery Administration.

"It seems clear that the question must be decided by the administration and the Congress and the people of the United States within a very short time.

"Pending the determination of this question, it would be most harmful to the general welfare if unfair competitive practices, universally recognized as such, were to be revived, and if the fair standards affecting labor were to be disregarded.

"Therefore, pending the determination of this question, I hope that all employers heretofore operating under approved codes and all their employees will co-operate in maintaining those standards of fair competition in commercial and labor relations which have been written into the codes with practically universal sanction, and which represent a united effort to eliminate dishonest, fraudulent trade practices and unfair competition in overworking and under-paying labor."

The verdict of the court threw the administration and Congress into a state of confusion and bewilderment.

So sweeping was it that it left them groping for means of creating a new NRA on the wreckage of the old, and passed to them the question of whether that could be done without more legal dispute.

In addition to the all-important question of what now shall become of NRA, the decision at once set New Dealers to pondering the constitutionality of other measures—thecodes of AAA, Federal control of the liquor industry, and the Wagner labor disputes act.

Labor was disappointed, too. William Green, president of the A. F. of L., hastened back to Washington from New York and Francis J. Gorman, vice president of the United Textile Workers, warned that departures from the textile code's wage and hour provisions would be followed by immediate strikes.

Richberg's statement apparently was intended to ward off such an eventuality. Apparently his words had the indorsement of the President, Attorney General Cummings, and Solicitor General Stanley Reed. Both the latter attended the White House conference.

Richberg described the history of NRA as that of a "great co-operative movement for the rehabilitation of trade and industry, for the improvement of the conditions of the workers and their standards of living, and for the elimination of sweatshop wages, child labor, and unfair competitive practices."

Interpreting the opinion of the court, he construed its words as holding that "Congress did not sufficiently define in the law the policy and standards of the wise and beneficent measures which we have undertaken, but delegated to the President's 'unfettered discretion' to approve all provisions in codes of fair competition which he deemed 'beneficial in dealing with the vast array of commercial and industrial activities throughout the country.'"

DANCE TO BE GIVEN BY ORGANIZED LABOR FOR STRIKING PRINTERS

Within the next two weeks a dance, with other amusement features in connection, will be given for the boys out on strike at the Queen City Printing Company. It is expected to be pulled off at the Armory-Auditorium, and committees have been appointed from Central Labor Union, the printers, pressmen and bookbinders to work out details and handle the affair. This will be an affair unique, special features of entertainment being promised by the committee in charge, and all Union men and their friends and sympathizers are urged to lend their every effort toward making it a success.

LABOR UNIONS NEEDED, SAYS MAYOR LaGUARDIA

The frightful misery of the last six years of depression would have been greatly mitigated had the workers of this country been organized in strong labor unions.

That is the deliberate opinion of Mayor F. H. LaGuardia of New York, who has had a world of experience with economic and social questions. For years he was a distinguished member of Congress, and went from Washington, to become reform mayor of the world's richest city. He served in the World War as an aviator and was decorated by Congress for conspicuous gallantry in action.

"The country," declared LaGuardia, "would not find itself in its present predicament if as much time, effort and money spent in the last 20 years in fighting for the 'open shop' and keeping down wages had been expended in bringing about a better understanding between capital and labor.

"Starvation is not a legitimate weapon for capital to use against labor. It is the will of the people that a system that permits its use shall be changed so that those willing to work may find gainful employment.

"To permit want and hunger to exist in a land of surpluses is a challenge to civilization.

"Labor, as a major part of that civilization, must share in meeting that challenge and must be permitted to dedicate its head and heart to the greatest task American statesmanship has yet faced." LaGuardia has nothing but scorn for reactionaries who hide behind the Constitution when reforms are suggested.

"There is not a phrase in that immortal document," he said, "that prevents the government from guaranteeing permanent economic security along with all the other rights guaranteed by the Constitution."

NIGHT BASEBALL

NORFOLK AT CHARLOTTE

June 6 - 7 - 8 - 9

NIGHT GAMES AT 8:15

Bleachers, 40c (All Tax Paid) Grand Stand 65c