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the A. F. of L.

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1936

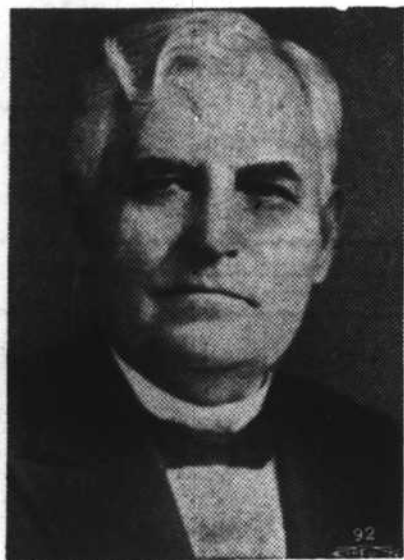
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LABOR DAY, 1936, MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE



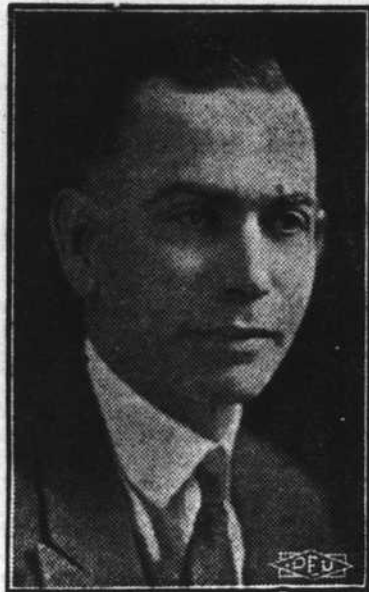
WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor



FRANK MORRISON
Secretary American Federation of Labor



JOHN L. LEWIS
President United Mine Workers,
Chairman Committee for Industrial



R. R. LAWRENCE
President North Carolina
State Federation of Labor



E. L. SANDEFUR
Secretary-Treasurer N. C. State
Federation of Labor



JAMES H. FULLERTON
President Central Labor Union
First Vice-President State Federation of Labor

LABOR DAY, 1936

BY WILLIAM GREEN

President American Federation of Labor

Labor Day, 1936, records a year of new achievements and new problems which progress has developed. During the year unions have increased in membership. The trend toward business recovery is unmistakable. The administration of the Social Security Act is in process of organization while the Judiciary threatens to nullify our efforts to assure workers rights by legislation. The Social Security Act is a recognition of Society's responsibility for providing security from another source than property ownership. There are many who have no opportunity to acquire sufficient property to achieve security. For this large group income for emergencies must be provided if they are to be relieved of the burden of insecurity.

The spectre which haunts the wage earner through his productive years is loss of job. This spectre takes on blacker terrors as the workers grow older and faces inability to secure other jobs. The Social Security Act attempts to relieve the major emergencies; it provides:

Federal old age benefits to which employers and employees contribute jointly in addition to Federal subsidies to matching state old age pensions provisions up to \$15 per person;

Federal financial incentives to states to enact unemployment compensation laws;

Federal plans for public assistance to widows and dependent children, crippled children, and for blind persons;

Federal grants to states for public health work. As a result, fifteen states now have unemployment compensation acts, thirteen of which have been approved by the Social Security Board, and every state has increased the security provided its residents, taking advantage of at least one opportunity afforded by the Social Security Act. This is a remarkable achievement for so short a time. It is Labor's hope and ambition to secure legislation to enable every state to participate fully in all types of Federal aid offered by this measure. These constructive legislative enactments constitute the beginning of a constructive plan to assure to every citizen an income to provide the necessities of life under all eventualities. When there is a measure of economic security so that persons are sure of shelter, food and clothing, freedom takes on new meaning.

It would be well if our Labor Day celebration included plans for a development of a fully rounded security program in every state efficiently administered with Labor's co-operation. Labor should take the initiative in the legislative program and then must be ready to follow closely administrative policies and procedure. Unless this program is administered as a right of Labor it becomes a mere relief program which does not make for freedom.

In addition to our opportunity to advance social security, we face a responsibility to all unemployed wage earners. It is obvious that recovery for business is at hand but re-employment of the unemployed is not keeping pace with the increase in business activity or the recovery of profits. For those who are employed we must secure higher wages and shorter hours. The steady rise in business activity and profits indicates the opportuneness of demands for higher standards. The rise in the costs of living make such demands imperative.

We face, in addition, the serious problem of extending our provisions for unemployed so that there may be normal opportunities for those excluded from existing business by technical progress. There again the labor movement must insist upon equal opportunities for all in our new economic environment.

We face another phase of Labor's age-long struggle for freedom under all conditions. Unless the labor movement does its part, the results will be serious for our Nation, for the labor movement is essential to balance in both our economic and our political progress. We have seen in other countries that the downfall of free labor movements has always presaged the loss of civil interests.

We are upon a critical period in world affairs as well as in our own country so that our first concern should be the strengthening advancement of our organized labor movement, that the workers as well as all society may be safeguarded and bettered. Organization is the first step in progress and is essential to maintain existing gains. May organization be our continuous concern. Upon the rank and file workers as well as union officers rests responsibility for taking advantage of opportunity of solving our problems. May each and every member of organized labor be ready and alert to do his full part for our common advancement.

Plumbers and Steamfitters To Picnic Labor Day

On Labor Day, next Monday, the Plumbers and Steamfitters local is going to have a picnic at their club house on the Catawba, and the boys are looking for a good time with their families and a few invited friends are going to see the "launching" of the old "Hesperus," now the "Silver Streak," and her performance will be anxiously awaited, to see whether the "Silver Streak" will streak or not. We are told that duck, chicken and ham, along with other edibles too various to mention will grace the festive board, and a new bride and groom are expected to be present. The Journal hopes to be on hand, but he still has his fears for the "Silver Streak."

Closing of Beverage Rooms Is Urged By Toronto Labor

TORONTO, Canada.—The attitude of hotel men here toward labor unions is said to be a factor in prompting the District Trades and Labor Council to vote unanimously to work for abolition of "beverage rooms" in Toronto.

A motion offered by E. Sinfield, President of the Building Trades Council, declared that the central body was "prepared to support or start a campaign and use all other means within their power to bring about the system in vogue prior to the introduction of beverage rooms in Toronto."

Lots of folks still live in the past. edy.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

BY FRANK MORRISON

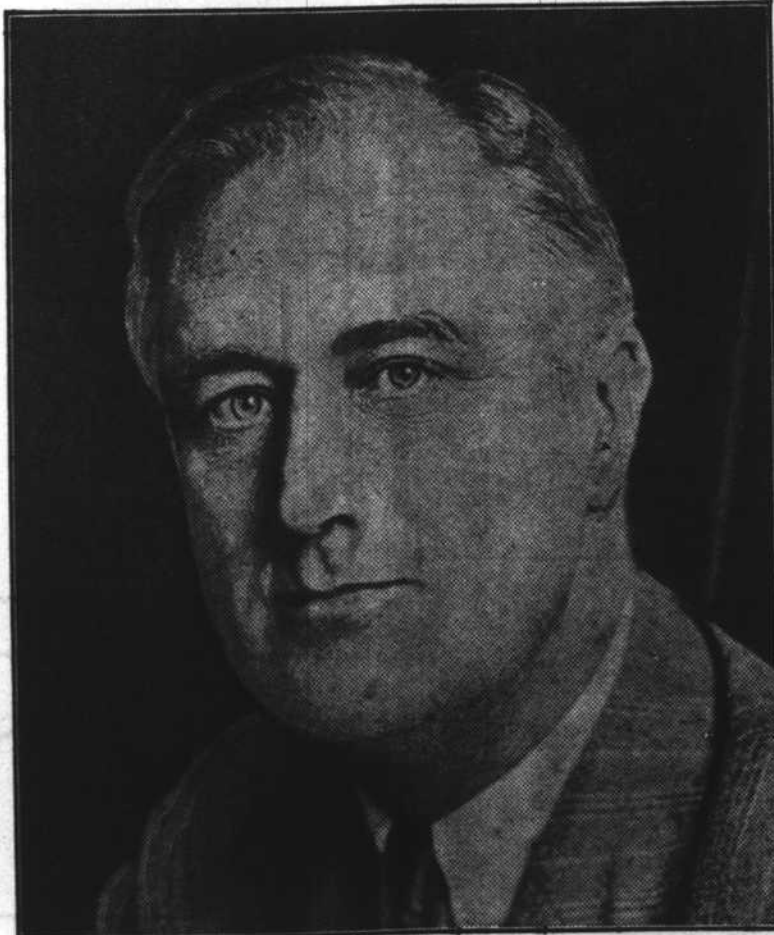
Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

In this Presidential election year national interest is focused on political activities. It is timely to draw attention to the political policy of the American Federation of Labor. The formation of the American Federation of Labor developed out of the desire of workers to model an organization on principles which experience proved best suited to their needs.

The immediate objective was to organize workers and to affiliate them to the Union of their trade and calling, to enable them to carry on collective bargaining relations with their employers for the purpose of negotiating further comprehended demand for the enactment of legislation by the Federal and State governments for the protection and benefit of wage workers agreements, regulating wages and working conditions. The objectives and of the masses of the people.

With the passing of time the American Federation of Labor was brought face to face with the necessity of adopting a political policy which would enable organized labor to bring about the election of representatives in state legislatures and the Congress of the United States who would support legislation demanded by the American Federation of Labor. At the same time it was necessary to avoid the danger of dividing the membership in a cleavage between the political parties. The 1897 convention of the American Federation of Labor declared for the "independent use of the ballot by trade unionists and working men united regardless of party." Later the non-partisan principle was emphasized in the declaration "we will stand by our friends and administrator a stinging rebuke to men or parties who are either indifferent, negligent or hostile." In the successive election campaigns the American Federation of Labor has adhered strictly to the non-partisan character of its political policy, with the result that increasing numbers of members of different political faiths are being elected to Congress and the State Legislatures who are supporting the legislative demands of the American Federation of Labor.

The question might be asked what progress are we realizing when laws sponsored by the American Federation of Labor are set aside by courts and laws that stand the test of courts fail to protect workers in the right to organize in independent unions because of the defiance of antagonistic employer interests. We encounter opposition because we live under a free government and because it is free the labor movement has the right to carry on the struggle for realization of its ideals. Notwithstanding the setbacks the persistent and insistent promulgation of labor legislation in the United States is creating a more enlightened public conscience in regard to human values and inherent rights of a free people as against purely materialistic considerations and these principles are attracting ever widening recognition and acceptance.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
President of the United States and Originator of the New Deal

Loneliness in later life is a tragedy. What is the difference between happiness, pleasure and enjoyment?

LABOR DAY, 1936

BY JOHN L. LEWIS,

President, United Mine Workers of America, Chairman, Committee for Industrial Organization.

TO ALL WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHETHER ORGANIZED OR UNORGANIZED:

There is today a most vital question confronting you. It is a question upon which may hinge not only your destiny, but the destiny of this nation. I refer to the organization of the workers in the mass-production industries of the United States, upon which organization of the workers in smaller industries and businesses must depend.

Organized labor in the United States numbers today a little more than three million men and women; this is, roughly, only one tenth of the workers who are eligible for organization. There are twenty-seven millions of persons in this United States who are devoid of the benefits of organization.

What can a strongly organized labor union do for its members? It can raise their wages, lessen their hours, and improve their working conditions. It can be made an instrument for expressing and securing the social, political, and economic needs of its members. A member of a labor union is no longer wholly at the mercy of his employer, of this topsy-turvy economic structure, or of some unforeseen blow of fate. He has a protection beyond that which his own efforts can afford him.

Those who are in possession of such benefits must desire to retain them; those who lack them must yearn to attain them. To achieve such aims the unorganized workers of this country must be organized, for it is my belief that the three million members of organized labor will not for many years longer be able to withstand the continuous pressure of the masses of unorganized workers. Moreover, we owe it to ourselves to assist our brothers.

Organization of the mass-production industries, followed by organization of all other industrial workers, will mean a more stable economic structure and a more democratic government. It may save us from a catastrophic political upheaval, which would surely cause great suffering and might cause the loss of all our cherished liberties. I urge all the workers of the United States to do their utmost to assist in this great endeavor.

Wagner In Weekly Radio Broadcasts Under Auspices Of N-P Labor League

United States Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, President Roosevelt's home state, will open a series of weekly radio broadcasts under the auspices of Labor's Non-Partisan League, speaking at 9:00 o'clock Wednesday evening, Eastern Standard Time.

The broadcast this week, and at the same hour succeeding weeks, will be over the following stations:

WOL, Washington, D. C., WEVD, New York City, WIP Philadelphia, Pa., KQV, Pittsburgh, Pa., WCFL, Chicago.

The broadcast this week will be from New York City, where the Labor party, affiliate of Labor's Non-Partisan League, will dedicate a great Broadway electric display in support of President Roosevelt. Senator Wagner will discuss campaign issues. It will be his first political address in this campaign.

The speaker the following week will be Mr. Harvey Fremming, President of the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers', who will discuss the campaign issues from the standpoint of oil workers.

TEACHERS' NATIONAL CONVENTION ENDORSES RIGHTS AMENDMENT

PHILADELPHIA.—At its annual convention here, the American Federation of Teachers, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, endorsed the Farmers' and Workers' Rights Amendment to the Constitution (S. J. R. 249), and elected Jerome Davis, noted liberal educator, president. The A. F. T. also reaffirmed its stand in favor of industrial unionism.

Many are careless in the preservation of their friendship.

Subscribe for The Journal

Watch Your Radio Programs Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 7

Don't forget to listen in on the Ornburn talk on WBT Monday, September 7th, at 3:30 to 3:45.

The Union Label Trades Department, of which Mr. Ornburn is the secretary-treasurer, has a message for all the workers in America, through this national hookup over the Columbia Broadcasting system. Make up a party for this broadcast, as well as for the Green-Morrison broadcast the same day. Watch your radio program.

LATER:

ORNBURN BROADCASTS FROM ST. LOUIS ON LABOR DAY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor announced that the Labor Day address of I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Department will be broadcast from St. Louis, Mo., instead of from Washington, D. C. Mr. Ornburn will speak from Station KMOX, Columbia Broadcasting System, from 2:30 to 2:45 (Central Standard Time). His subject will be "The Union Label—The Emblem of Labor Day."

WASHINGTON PLASTERERS RECEIVE \$1.75 PER HOUR

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Plasterers and Cement Finishers, Local Union No. 96, recently concluded an agreement with the local plastering contractors' association, providing for an increase in wages of 25 cents and hour, thus restoring a cut accepted during the depression, and bringing the rate to \$1.75 an hour. Business Agent James Buckley reports 98 per cent of the employers began paying the new rate as arranged, August 15, although some trouble was experienced with two out-of-town contractors, resulting in strikes, of short duration, on two construction jobs. Plasterers here work six hours a day, five days a week.