

Official Organ Central Labor Union; standing for the A. F. of L.

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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BOYCOTT POWER OF CENTRAL LABOR UNION RESTRICTED BY A. F. L.; MUST HAVE CHANCE TO ADJUST DISPUTE

The Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor amended the constitution of the Federation by restricting the power of central labor bodies to boycott employers.

The matter was brought before the convention by delegates representing the Building Trades and Metal Trades Departments of the A. F. of L. in a resolution which charged that the action of central labor councils and other delegate bodies in declaring firms unfair which have agreements with national and international unions "is in direct violation to the basic principles of collective bargaining and the necessary observance of agreements entered into by international unions."

The delegates of two departments asked that the A. F. of L. constitution be amended so as to provide that no central labor body "shall have authority to declare any firm or firms having national or local agreements with national or international unions unfair in violation of the provisions of such agreements," with the provision that central labor bodies "declaring an employer unfair in violation of the provisions of such agreements shall be subject to the discipline of the American Federation of Labor."

The Building Trades and Metal Trades delegates the committee recommended that Section 7 of Article XI of the American Federation of Labor constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. No central labor union or other central body of delegates shall have power or authority to originate a boycott, nor shall such bodies endorse and order the placing of the name of any person, firm or corporation on an unfair list that has agreements with any international or national union or local unions until the national or international unions or local unions having such agreements are informed of the request made upon the central body of delegates and such international, national or local unions working under agreements that may be affected have had reasonable time to intercede and until the local union desiring such action by the central body

has, before declaring the boycott, submitted to the central body for investigation and the best endeavors on its part to effect an amicable settlement.

"Failure to reach an understanding between the unions involved, the entire matter shall be referred to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor which shall be empowered to grant or refuse such request."

Some delegates opposed the amendment on the ground that it would deprive city central bodies of considerable strength in improving local labor conditions.

Others held that the purpose of the amendment was to prevent a large number of unions from being placed in a position where their membership working under agreements are compelled to work for an employer who is placed on the unfair list.

At the conclusion of the discussion the report of the Committee on Laws was adopted by more than two-thirds majority.

When the vote was announced, President Green, "in order to allay apprehension on the part of the representatives of city central bodies," made the following statement relative to the purpose of the amendment:

"First of all, city central bodies I know will be given the widest latitude in their policy of dealing with unfriendly employers in their respective communities.

"For one, I shall strongly oppose the restriction of central bodies in placing firms upon the unfair list, excepting in some grave emergency. We want the central bodies to be able to deal with these questions quickly and promptly in their respective communities.

"In my official capacity I shall favor granting to the central bodies the widest power to deal with these questions and place firms upon the unfair list because of their unfriendly attitude to labor."

SPURIOUS A.F.L. COMMITTEE ENDED BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION; SAY FALSE IMPRESSION CREATED

The order of the Federal Trade Commission requiring the so-called "A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief" to discontinue using that name "or any other name suggesting that they have a connection with the American Federation of Labor" definitely brings to an end the efforts, extending over a number of years, of these notorious left wingers to palm themselves off as a bona fide A. F. of L. organization.

The Federal Trade Commission began its inquiry into the activities of this group more than a year ago in an order requiring them to appear before the commission on a charge of violating the Federal statute prohibiting deceptive practices as "unfair competition" and show cause why they should not be required to cease this allegedly fraudulent procedure.

By the use of the initials "A. F. of L." in its name the committee has undertaken to create the impression that it is an American Federation of Labor group.

By the use of the initials "A. F. of L." and the word "Federationist" in the name of its publication "The A. F. of L. Rank and File Federationist," the committee has likewise endeavored to palm off its magazine as an American Federation of Labor publication.

The fact is that neither the committee nor its publication has ever had any connection whatsoever with the

American Federation of Labor. On November 24, 1936, after a thorough investigation of the case the Federal Trade Commission issued the following statement:

The Federal Trade Commission has ordered an association and its members, with headquarters at 1 Union Square, New York City, to discontinue use of the name "A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief," or any other name suggesting that they have a connection with the American Federation of Labor.

The order also prohibits the respondent association and its members from using the name "A. F. of L. Rank and File Federationist" as a title for their monthly magazine, and from using any other name indicating that any publication sold by them is a publication of the American Federation of Labor.

Findings are that the initials "A. (Continued on last page)

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND BUSINESS MEN

A resolution adopted last year as to The Labor Journal and solicitation of funds in the name of Central Labor Union was brought out of the minutes and republished as information. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved, That we publish in The Charlotte Labor Journal, that we do not condone any solicitation of advertising except for The Charlotte Labor Journal, purporting to represent labor, unless over the signature of the secretary of the Charlotte Central Labor Union.

Union Men Insure First Class Work

The other day the writer was walking along upper N. E. Second avenue in what is known as the uptown section, when a painter working on the front of a large, modern apartment building, with stores below, dropped his can of paint from the top of the ladder on which he was standing and the contents splashed over a woman who had just alighted from a car parked at the curb. What missed her smeared all over the sidewalk.

The writer did not have to ask if the man was a non-union painter, but inquiry developed that such was the case, because the pain splashes on parts of the building painted to another color and paint all over the sidewalk below provided the label of the handyman painter who is willing to do painting at a cheaper rate than that prevailing, but who proves more expensive in the long run.

And yet there are some owners of buildings who still think that it pays to hire men who profess to know all about painting, carpenter work or anything you happen to be in need of at the time, usually floaters who mean little or nothing to the community.

The man we made reference to would have had hard work qualifying as a first class painter—probably he never could. We do not blame him so much for seeking work which he can only do in a sloppy and indifferent manner as we do the owners, who ought to know better after a few experiences with workers of that kind. He might be all right for a kalsomining job on a chicken coop but

clearly was not to be entrusted with interior or exterior decorating on a high class apartment building or home.

We do not mean that there is not a field for the unskilled laborer, but it sure is a short-sighted policy to employ one in what should be work of a high character.

Before a painter can become a member of a Painters' Union he must be examined as to his qualifications by an examining board, which has set up requirements that assure a first class job to his employer. That is one of the reasons why more and more contractors who wish to be known for the quality of their work and builders who desire such work are insisting on union painters and other union craftsmen for their jobs. It is another reason why practically all union craftsmen are now at work in the Metropolitan Miami area, where high class work is being demanded.

It is a trite saying that it is not the original cost that counts but the upkeep—and so it is with jobs that may seem cheap at first but prove most expensive in the long run.

The prevailing wages for building craftsmen in the Metropolitan Miami area are not unreasonable by any means, but they are a guarantee of good work, which any prospective builder who expects good work can not afford to ignore. Then, too, the union craftsman, being an expert in his line, invariably turns out more work than the botch workman who does not believe in bettering himself so he can join the union ranks.

Labor Press Heads Are Woll And Woodmansee

Matthew Woll, editor of the International Photo-Engraver, and R. E. Woodmansee, editor of the Illinois Tradesman, Springfield, Ill., were re-elected president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the International Labor Press of America at its recent convention at Tampa, Fla.

The officers elected included P. J. Morris, St. Louis, first vice-president; John C. Saylor, Wilmington, Del., second vice-president; Thomas E. Burke, Washington, third vice-president; W. J. Moran, El Paso, Texas, fourth vice-president; Robert E. Hesketh, Cincinnati, fifth vice-president; Frank B. Powers, Chicago, sixth vice-president; Chester M. Wright, Washington, seventh vice-president; Thomas R. Downie, Galesburg, eighth vice-president, and Frank Martel, Detroit, Mich., ninth vice-president.

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The Supreme Court may "knock out" the New Deal laws, but it can't find the Union Label unconstitutional.

Every dollar spent for Union Label goods and services means better wages, shorter hours and decent working conditions for every worker.

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GOING UP! GOING UP!

A newspaper dispatch of recent date says:

"During the week of November 14 commodity prices increased one per cent.

"Every major category of prices has registered an increase since the election.

"For the week of November 14 the general commodity price level reached its highest point since 1926.

"Farm products were up nearly ten per cent above a year ago; miscellaneous commodities up nine per cent above a year ago."

CHATting BY HARRY BOATE

Is England paving the way to follow the lead of other European countries and change its form of government? For some time there appears to have been no truly stable government on the European continent, among the larger nations, save England. And events of the past week point in the direction of unrest there also.

News columns for some time have been carrying stories of the prosperous conditions existing in England, but a more recent statement regarding that subject comes in the form of a letter reaching the United States which says in part: "Do not be fooled by what American tourists tell about prosperity in England. It is largely a fake prosperity, like that of other countries that need not be named. The British unemployed will not stand it much longer, and the only way out for them is the way of revolution, either by ballot or by bullet. . . . If Europe escapes a general war for the next six months it will be a sheer miracle. England may be able to keep out of it, leaving the Reds and the Blacks to batter each other to bits."

"Italy and Germany are converging upon Russia and France via Spain, while England feebly clucks like an old hen calling back a brood of hawks. If France goes Fascist, what then? Yet England hates and fears Russia, preferring to let Hitler and Mussolini have their way rather than to risk Socialism. . . . Fascism is a fever and will pass away. It is a tragic effort to build society upon decay. But Communism is freed, vital, incredibly self-sure, a gigantic, rising force to be reckoned with. . . . At the present rate there is, or soon will be, nothing left in Europe but a choice between Fascism and Communism. . . . Both deny liberty and defy force, and both are based upon an estimate of human nature which destroys religion. It is a black picture, but there it is—take it or leave it."

In addition to the statements above has arisen the commotion in England caused by the friendship of the yet uncrowned King for an American lady. The fear arises that marriage may be arranged between these parties, and a marriage with a princess is desired instead.

On this subject Arthur Brisbane remarks: "You wonder that a nation willing to overlook any sort of immortality on the part of reigning English sovereigns, provided it be not 'too public,' and provided the King marries some respectable princess, 'on the side,' should be so deeply distressed about their young King marrying a normal, well-behaved young woman to whom he is deeply attached. If the King should marry Mrs. Simpson it would be the nearest approach to a royal marriage with an English bride in a long time. Mrs. Simpson is of English descent, and no King since Henry the Eighth has married a full-blooded English woman. They have all married princesses of foreign blood, including the late King George, whose most estimable widow, Queen Mary, is German."

At the time of this writing the papers are filled with rumors and queries concerning what action may be taken by the young King. It is even rumored that he may abdicate, passing the job over to his younger brother, the Duke of York. The British cabinet has determined that the marriage of their King is not a private matter, but one of imperial concern. The King feels that the cabinet has no constitutional right to dictate his private life, no matter how closely he must follow his ministers' advice in public affairs.

While those high in British official circles are openly opposing the attitude of their ruler in this crisis, the working classes appear to be in sympathy with him, and should he refuse to be crowned and finally marry the lady of his choice, and should a change in the form of government come as a result, who can say but that King Edward may emerge from the overthrow as choice of the people, for whatever may happen, a ruler will still be needed, and some person will arise as the Moses to lead them wherever they are to go.

Truly this world at present is in awful turmoil, and great are the changes which occur in short periods of time.

"Ye know not what a day may bring forth."

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