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# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1937

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## SENATE CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE ASKS FOR DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH LABOR SPY SERVICE, SAID TO HAVE COMBATED UNION ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The Senate civil liberties committee has issued subpoenas for documents bearing on an assertion that the army and navy co-operated with a labor spy service in combatting union activities.

The committee had just heard a representative of the National Metal Trades association, which supplies metal manufacturing plants with labor spies and strike-breakers, testify that the association co-operated with the army and navy intelligence services and the Justice department to maintain production in plants filling government contracts.

Senator La Follette, Progressive, of Wisconsin, inquired whether the association's activities, designed to keep plants operating, did not include "labor espionage."

"Yes, that is undercover men," replied L. A. Stringham, official of the association.

The La Follette committee directed the association to produce all its correspondence dealing with the subject.

At the Navy department, officials declined comment. War department spokesmen said no such activity had been undertaken.

In addition to this matter, the committee received testimony of association officials or documentary evidence to show that:

1. The association fired all but six of the 38 labor spies after receiving a subpoena from the committee.
  2. That of the 38, twelve were members of unions and used their memberships to obtain information on union activity and block organization work.
  3. That the association exchanges information among its members on the activities of individual workers. The officials denied, however, that a black list was maintained.
  4. That the association opposed the enactment of the Walsh-Healy government contracts act and that during the election campaign last fall it sent bulletins and posters to its members attacking the social security act.
- The principal witness was String-

ham, stout and florid eastern representative of the association.

Chairman La Follette contended at several points that Stringham was "not being frank" in his response to inquiries.

La Follette produced a letter by Stringham to the association's headquarters in Chicago, reporting an effort to obtain a new member for the association. One of its paragraphs said:

"During our conference, I mentioned a number of member plants that were doing a hundred per cent U. S. government work and that certain departments of the government sought our co-operation in order to keep them in production through certain services of the association, that were not available to outsiders and could not be duplicated by the government, to take care of existing emergencies. And that these were always of the utmost importance to the government and the manufacturer, considering the time element."

By "the time element," Stringham said he referred to plants filling government contracts containing a penalty for failure to deliver the finished product by a specified date.

Then, in response to persistent questioning by La Follette, he said the association had had the co-operation of the three branches of the government. He had no papers or other documents with him dealing with this phase, he added. The subpoena demanding them was served later.

## PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS CHATTING BY HARRY BOATE

The summer of 1936 will go down in history as being one of the very hottest the present generation has ever experienced, and perhaps its record will be well earned. But it must be remembered that some places are hotter than others, and this story has to do with one of the hot places—Death Valley, California, and a famous character, "Death Valley Scotty."

About once every year this man emerges on the front page, then goes back into seclusion, to live his lonely life in his large desert castle. Recently he once more appeared in civilization for a brief spell, and received his usual advertising in the papers and magazines. His fame comes from gold.

"I've got \$700,000 in gold in the rock," he said, repeating the old story of a mysterious gold mine to the Los Angeles correspondent of the Associated Press. But he wanted to talk about the string of 15 mules he had bought during his latest visit. "I bet there ain't another mule in the world like my old pal Barnum," he said. "He's a big bay, 15.2 hands high. He'll make a good saddle mule for me."

From Los Angeles, where the heat was above 100, he would be glad to get back to Death Valley, where 135 degrees in the shade is common, so he could take off his coat and shirt. The place he was heading for was his two million dollar castle built in Grapevine Canyon in the scorching, lifeless wastes of Death Valley. The castle, or "shack," as he calls it, required five years of build. Like Scotty's gold mine, it caught—and held—the public imagination.

Comprising a group of nine towered Moorish-Spanish structures, connected by underground passages, the castle is said to be the most elaborate private building in the west except for William Randolph's home at San Simeon, California. All the material for it had to be hauled 100 miles. It has three-foot concrete walls insulated against the desert heat, a \$50,000 pipe organ, a water fall in the enormous living room, a \$185,000 room for Scotty, a swimming pool and huge ornamented gates. Scotty lives there with a cook and a caretaker—an elderly Armenian and a Canadian ex-machine gunner. From time to time he has employed a number of Indians. For three years he closed the castle to visitors, since tourists are getting "bothersome." Last fall he re-opened it, for he admits he gets lonesome in the desert and likes to spin tales about himself.

Long before he built the castle Scotty had become famous. Born in Covington, Kentucky, 60 years ago, he went to Northern Nevada in early childhood, and at 12 years he toured the world as a dare-devil rider with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Back in the United States, he headed for Death Valley.

In 1905 he started the country with the first of his money spending escapades. Driving a pack mule into Barstow, on the edge of the desert, he demanded a special train to Los Angeles and shoved a pile of bills through the ticket window. In Los Angeles he tipped the bell-boys with halves of \$50 bills then bought back the halves for \$20 each. He hired a special train for a rush trip to Chicago and rode in the engine cab as it hit 100 miles an hour. In New York he rode through the streets in a buckboard, scattering gold coins from a keg between his knees. While Scotty boasted of a mysterious gold mine that made all this possible, desert rats said he had never in his life swung a pick.

In 1930 he sprung another sensation by announcing that he was "broke," that his mine was a myth, and that all his bank rolls had come from his old friend, A. M. Johnson, Chicago insurance man, who had backed him in building the castle and all his other ventures. How had it happened? Bad stock deals. What had he left? Not even a share in his castle. What were his plans? Well, he didn't know about movies, maybe. All the time he was waving his traditional roll of \$20,000. But the papers saw a good story and published it.

A few days later Scotty declared his latest story was a hoax and the mystery was right back where it had been.

Warren A. Scott, his older brother, laughed at Scotty's latest news outbreak. While Scotty tosses money around, Warren is living in Reno in a six-by-nine shack with a dingy window and a coal-oil stove. He earns \$44 a month on the relief rolls screening sand on a WPA project. He said: "Scotty never in God's world had a mine. He and Johnson decided to build a castle and spend money because of the income tax. He is a pretty clever man and you gotta hand it to him for keeping his information under his hat."

Whether or not this man ever did own a gold mine, it must be admitted that every time he appears in civilized towns he furnishes very interesting reading matter.

Among the items of later information concerning this very interesting character are, first, that he has a wife, and that he has not lived with her for some time, and, second, that misfortune seems to have overtaken him, and he is now what is commonly called "dead broke." It is claimed that he is now among the poorest of the poor. If that be so, we probably are through with fantastic tales concerning "Scotty."

## LABOR SHORTS BY THE RAMBLER

The automobile strike continued with General Motors still on the short end. Those auto workers are determined to go places and under the banner of C. I. O. will doubtlessly emerge victoriously, despite all the strike-breaking tactics Messrs. Sloan and Knudson can direct.

General Motors will not permit this to go on for much longer; too much money is being lost. Mr. Sloan's colleagues in the motor industry will not sustain all the losses General Motor's is sustaining because of this major blunder.

Solomon, in his bequested wisdom, was able to decide correctly when the two women claimed the motherhood of the child.

Roosevelt is wise, but it will be hard to please the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. whatever the action he takes in the current auto strike. On the premise that a spectator can often discern the wisest moves more adeptly than the player, it is predicted that Roosevelt's wisest course will be to "crack down" on General Motors now whether the craft A. F. of L. likes it or not.

The weavers in the tapestry and rug plant in Charlotte stopped off Monday, January 18th, to talk with Al J. Bartson, Middleton Park, N. J., owner of the plant by the same name, when he came into the shop.

They had a heart-to-heart talk about increased wages. Bartson promised them an increased wage—a wage that would top the pay of any other jobs on like work in this section. The boys then again pulled on the leavers of the Jacquards.

Yes, sir! The key to higher wages is ORGANIZATION.

As far as can be learned no textile local unions have draped their charters in memory of the late D. H. Hill, Jr., who died last week.

Hill was a writer of much editorial matter in the Southern Textile Bulletin, published by David Clark.

Too many people do not realize what hardships the WPA workers have been suffering during the rough weather for the past few weeks. Besides the many lay-offs, those on jobs do not get pay unless they work. The inclement weather has interfered with their work, and some have only worked a few days during the past month. The pay checks therefore, in many instances, amount to less than the monthly rental of the WPA workers' homes. Where are the other expenses necessary to maintaining the family to be had?

A movement was recently started by Organized Labor in Charlotte to get food and other supplementary necessities for these workers. This may have partly alleviated the conditions among this group, but what about the others?

Few WPA workers will admit that the depression ended last year.

And again, this brings up the point of organization. If any people need the benefits of organization the WPA workers get the nomination!

The writer would like some information. It is said there is no Local Union of Painters & Decorators in Charlotte. Some Charlotte painters say their cards are in Greensboro. It is then said that there is no Painters & Decorators local in Greensboro.

Address all communications to this column, care of The Charlotte Labor Journal.

Don't forget to get your tickets for the President's Ball at the Hotel Charlotte Saturday night, and thus help the friend of Labor in a worthy cause.

Christopher Columbus, who claimed to be from Genoa, Italy, could not speak Italian.

Oxygen—the most abundant element on earth—was named as the result of a mistake.

## ROOSEVELT REPRIMANDS SLOAN FOR ACTION OF G. M. C. IN STRIKE; JOHN L. LEWIS ACCEPTS INVITATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—President Roosevelt joined Secretary Perkins yesterday in reprimanding the General Motors corporation for refusing to accept Miss Perkins' invitation to a strike peace conference.

Mr. Roosevelt said at his press conference he had told "everybody" he "was not only disappointed in the refusal of Mr. Sloan to come down here, but I regarded it as a very unfortunate decision on his part."

Previously, Miss Perkins told reporters that General Motors "has failed in its public duty," had made a "great mistake," and had disregarded the "moral challenge" resulting from the strike.

Miss Perkins had asked Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., General Motors president, and John L. Lewis, strike generalissimo, to meet here tomorrow and try to work out an approach to peace negotiations.

Sloan refused to come, saying he could not see his way clear to negotiate while the striking United Automobile Workers still were in possession of General Motors plants.

Lewis accepted at noon today, "without condition or prejudice," although he was known to feel the negotiations themselves rather than a discussion of the method of approaching them should be started in the Labor Secretary's office.

## GENERAL MOTORS HEAD DECLINES TO ATTEND MEET FOR ARBITRATION CALLED BY SEC. OF LABOR PERKINS

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of the General Motors corporation, tonight declined an invitation from Secretary of Labor Perkins to a conference in Washington Wednesday to negotiate a settlement of the General Motors strike.

Sloan made public a letter to the secretary declining the invitation.

"We cannot see our way clear," he said, "to accept the invitation to negotiate further with the union while its representatives continue to hold our plants unlawfully."

In his letter Sloan said that John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, which is pressing for industrial unionization, "has taken the position that the plants would not be evacuated until we agree to recognize the United Automobile Workers of America as the exclusive bargaining agency for all General Motors workers."

"In the face of this positive assertion and in view of the principles for which we stand, we are convinced the conferences you have suggested would lead to no beneficial result any more than did the proceeding of last week."

Sloan referred to the unsuccessful separate meetings held in Washington by Miss Perkins with General Motors officials and with Lewis.

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, accepting for the second time the invitation of a government official to a conference "without condition or prejudice," announced his departure for Washington tonight, accompanied by Wyndham Mortimer and Ed Hall, union vice-presidents, and George Addey, secretary and treasurer.

Before leaving, Martin said the union has been "ready at all times" to negotiate a strike settlement, and added:

General Motors can supply work 12 months a year and pay every worker a salary of \$2,000 a year and still make tremendous profit."

Martin, commenting on the scheduled return to work for General Motors workers in non-striking plants, said:

"As long as they are not producing automobiles, but only parts and motors, we are glad to see the men earning their wages. We are also glad to see General Motors stock up on parts, because it means they can get into production on finished cars rapidly when the strike is ended."

The union president said mass picket lines guarded strike-closed plants of the corporation today to prevent any attempt to operate them. General Motors has said no such attempt would be made.

Discussing effects of the strikes, Martin said: "If the present anti-union attitude of some businessmen continues, the union probably will operate its own stores." He did not explain the statement.

## LEWIS WILL ATTEND MEET CALLED BY LABOR SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—John L. Lewis expects to attend Secretary Perkins' automobile peace conference Wednesday, but informed persons said tonight that he is extremely displeased with the terms of the invitation.

Miss Perkins called Lewis, representatives of the striking United Automobile officials to consider renewal of negotiations "which had been scheduled to take place in Michigan" last Monday.

Though Lewis would make no statement today, he was said to feel that the secretary wants the union and the corporation to renew the "Lansing agreement." This stipulated that sit-down strikers evacuate all plants and that both sides negotiate toward

a working agreement.

Lewis no longer is satisfied with this program. He has said it would give the corporation an opportunity to "double cross" the union. Last week he said the corporation attempted to "double cross" the union under the Lansing accord by arranging to confer with the Flint (Mich.) alliance, a group opposed to the strike.

Don't forget to get your tickets for the President's Ball at the Hotel Charlotte Saturday night, and thus help the friend of Labor in a worthy cause.

The Union Label assures a chaser that he is putting his money into the best investment on earth—Trade Unionism.

Subscribe for The Journal

## Laying Non-Partisan League Plans



SIDNEY HILLMAN AND MAJ. GEORGE L. BERRY

Here are two of the leading figures in Labor's Non-Partisan League, obviously in happy mood because of the outlook and the achievements. Sidney Hillman, treasurer, is going over plans and policies with Maj. George L. Berry, president of the League. Appearances indicate that somebody has just told the old one about "as Maine goes . . ." Continued and expanded operations are being planned by the League.

## Extension Granted Mills On Working Girls Between 16-18

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—A recommendation of the public contracts board for the granting of a further 90-day extension to the cotton textile industry of an order permitting the industry to retain girls between the ages of 16 to 18 already employed has been approved by the Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, it was announced today.

The order permits cotton textile manufacturers to bid for government contracts under the Walsh-Healy act, providing that no girl under 16 shall be employed under any condition and no girl under 18 who was not in the employ of the manufacturer on October 15, 1936. The order also forbids the employment of girls under 18 on the night shift and in any occupations hazardous to health.

The board's recommendation was made after a hearing at which representatives of the Cotton Textile Institute, labor unions, and the children's bureau appeared. The United Textile Workers stated in a letter from its vice-president, Francis Gorman, that it had no objection to a temporary extension. Special Correspondence Charlotte Observer.

## Workers Fear Undercover Spies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—A business agent for organized labor told Senate investigators Tuesday that union employees of the Chrysler Motor Company were "terror stricken and under a psychology of fear" because of the activities of spies hired by the company.

Chester L. Robertson, general business representative for the Detroit chapter of the society of designing engineers, testified that those members of the union who had the "stamina to stand by their principles" were now mailing in their dues because they were afraid to disclose their identity by attending meetings.

Robertson appeared before the La Follette civil liberties committee investigating alleged interference with labor's right to organize.

## Textile Goods Prices Rising Along With Other Commodities

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Wholesale commodity prices of textile products manufactured in the Carolinas and in other mill centers increased for the twelfth consecutive week.

This was announced today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics which showed the total textile commodity index number at 76.9 per cent of the 1936 average as compared with 71.936 per cent on January 18, 1936, and 51.9 per cent on January 21, 1933. The largest commodity price advanced was registered in silk and rayon groups which increased 2.1 per cent over the index of previous week.

Among other commodity groups which advanced along with textiles, the bureau said, were farm products, food, metals, building materials, chemicals and drugs, house furnishing goods and miscellaneous commodities. Hides and leather products and fuel and lighting materials were the only groups to decline.

## Million Homeless Latest Estimate of Flood Disaster

Homeless—Estimated at almost 1,000,000 by the Red Cross.

Dead—Known dead numbered 261—including 133 known dead in Louisville. However, it was reliably estimated more than 300 had died from exposure and disease in Louisville hospitals. This would boost the general flood total to more than 428.

Known dead by States included: Kentucky, 170; Arkansas 23; Missouri 14; Ohio 14; West Virginia 11; Indiana 9; Tennessee 9; Illinois 6; Pennsylvania 3; South Carolina 1; Mississippi 1.

Damage—Conservatively estimated at more than \$400,000,000.—Associated Press Dispatch, Thursday A.M.

Copper came from the word of "Cyprus" which island was famous for its copper mines.

## 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.

(Brought out of the records and readopted December 9, 1936)