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The Charlotte Labor Journal

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A. F. OF L. COUNCIL SAYS THE C. I. O. IS FOUNDED UPON IRRESPONSIBILITY AND ILLEGALITY — A. F. L. COUNCIL TO MEET IN CINCINNATI ON MAY 18

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In a trenchant statement charging that the Committee for Industrial Organization is "steeped in the cesspool of illegality and irresponsibility," the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at the conclusion of its special session here, called a special conference of representatives of the A. F. of L., national and international unions to meet with the Council in Cincinnati, May 18.

The purpose of the conference, the statement said, is to marshal the forces of labor in America in support of the Executive Council's new policy and procedure designed not only to "advance and safeguard the interests of all affiliated unions," but also to "leave open the way to all trade unionists who wish to retain their affiliation with the A. F. of L." and "likewise make it possible for all workers heretofore not affiliated to come within the democratic and constructive fold of the American Federation of Labor."

This action, the Executive Council said, was taken because representatives of the Committee for Industrial Organization had persistently refused to meet with representatives of the American Federation of Labor in the endeavor to reach an adjustment of the controversy which led the A. F. of L. Executive Council and the 1935 A. F. of L. convention to declare that the C. I. O. was a dual organization within the American Federation of Labor and to suspend from A. F. of L. membership ten unions then composing the C. I. O., the suspension to remain in effect until the C. I. O. was dissolved and the unions composing it reasserted their loyalty to the principles and laws of the American Federation of Labor.

In connection with this inability to adjust the controversy, for which the A. F. of L. was in no way responsible, the Executive Council said the C. I. O. has "raided" organizations within the American Federation of Labor and encouraged "dual organizations" to a number of A. F. of L. unions. This C. I. O. policy, the Council declared, has been carried so far that "today no national or international union is immune or secure against the forces of destruction that have been let loose by the leaders of this movement."

The text of the statement issued by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor follows: "At the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Tampa, Fla., last November, and after extended deliberations and mature consideration of questions and issues having arisen out of the formation and functioning of the Committee for Industrial Organization, this convention by overwhelming majority vote, in addition to sustaining the suspension of organizations affiliated to the C. I. O., directed the continuance of efforts on the part of the special committee to bring about an adjustment of differences prevailing and, if possible, reunite the forces of organized labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor."

"This convention further decided that, if the existing relationship of conflict created a situation demanding more drastic action, the Executive Council be authorized and empowered to call a special convention of the American Federation of Labor to take such further steps and action as the emergency may require. "The Executive Council, meeting in special session to consider and act upon the situation as it now presents itself, regrets exceedingly that every effort made, not only by the special committee, but by the officers of the American Federation of Labor to effect an adjustment and to reunite the forces of organized labor has failed. "Failure is to be attributed not to the American Federation of Labor but to those responsible for having set in motion a group activity clothed in garments of good faith but inspired by a mind and heart bent upon destruction of the organized labor movement of America."

Policy of Confusion and Division "We are faced today with a situation quite different to that presented to the Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor. We are no longer required to deal with a group of international unions formerly associated with the American Federation of Labor and who have banded themselves into a group solely for educational or mutually protective purposes. "Today, instead of a conference, we find these disloyal international unions in a compact dominated not by a democratic spirit, form or procedure, but inspired and directed by the arbitrary dictation of one or more individuals bent upon the destruction of the American Federation of Labor and of any individual and organization that fails to submit to their will. "The underlying procedure of those in control of the C. I. O. is to confuse and divide the forces of labor as represented by the American Federation of Labor and by such division assume arbitrary direction and control of all forces of labor."

Membership Has Increased "Discounting the loss of membership due to the withdrawal of organizations making up the C. I. O., the American Federation of Labor in more ways than one has more than made up the loss of membership of those who have proven disloyal to their affiliations and unfaithful to their obligations. "It is equally true that the social, economic, civic and national value of the American Federation of Labor is more keenly and fully realized than ever heretofore by the American public. "We glory in this recognition. We believe this changed attitude portends much good for all wage-earners."

Agreements Must Be Maintained "In recognition of this public good and increasing support we offer the reassurance of the Executive Council and that of the organizations affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, while intent upon advancing the rights and interest of all wage-earners at all times, whether skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, whether employed in distinctive trade or in mass production plants and while insistent in the demand for collective bargaining for all workers, that we are equally imbued with the spirit and the determination to continue in the policy of maintaining inviolate collective agreements entered into with employers and to proceed in all

our collective activities and responsibilities in an orderly and constructive manner and one befitting the dignity, trust and confidence of and in labor. "Preservation of Democracy "Firm in the conviction that our cause is just, determined that democracy in trade unions and as representation by the A. F. of L. shall reign with employers and to proceed in all

at all costs and insistent that the

EDITORIAL

LAWRENCE JOINS C. I. O. FORCES

The Journal cannot register surprise at the action taken by President R. R. Lawrence, of the State Federation of Labor, in accepting the position as head of the C. I. O. textile organizing forces in North and South Carolina, as a good while back Mr. Lawrence was considering a similar position with the same organization which would have taken him to the west. He is a capable organizer and has been with the A. F. of L. for many years in that capacity being a member of the International Typographical Union. And it does seem that the C. I. O. forces are finding some valuable material in the ranks of the I. T. U.

Mr. Lawrence says he will not resign as president of the State A. F. of L. body, which leaves things in a state of status quo until action is taken in some quarters. The Journal has never doubted the unionism of any of the men who have become involved, nor does it impugn their motives, the only regret we have is seeing a state of disruption brewing in our ranks. Only a few days previous to Mr. Lawrence's statement The Journal editor had a long conference with him, and could tell that he had some weighty matter upon his mind, though he dropped no hint as to his intentions of joining the C. I. O. ranks.

Unless the unforeseen happens we are coming to the parting of the ways in labor, with two powerful factions at each others throat. It is a sad commentary of fact, just at the time when labor is coming into its own that such a state of affairs should have arisen, and to those who have given the best portion of their lives, or all of it, to organized labor, having drunk deep of the cup of suffering for a cause held dear to their hearts, next to their God, that such should be the case. To the younger workers in the fold it is different, they having not gone through the mill and seeing only benefits of the day at hand, caring not for the morrow, caring nothing for the past. But time tells all things. The storm comes, does its deadly work, then passes on and the rainbow is seen; it also passing in due order. And we talk of stabilization. How long do we remain stabilized—long enough for the novelty to wear off, and then find ourselves again trying trying to get unstabilized, and if Big Business had listened to reason, and the A. F. of L. earlier there would not today be the embroilment they find themselves in, but all would have been serene. But no, autocracy must predominate, and they reckoned without their host. Labor has always tried to be fair, but Big Business would not listen to the council of men wise in their day, like Samuel Gompers, who saw the handwriting on the wall.

The Journal deplors the state existing in the ranks of a cause it espouses, seeing enemies being made of friends, and while the editor has always been A. F. of L. and will so remain, unless forced into another body, he does rejoice to see the workers awakening to the fact that only through organization and co-operation can they reach the goal they are aiming for. Conditions have changed at a rapid rate in recent years, and the worker is no longer looked upon as a chattel or a pawn, but with education and agitation he is recognized as a composite part of society's makeup, and a factor in the community's civic, social and religious life.

So let's hope for the best stand for a principle, be what we are, and let the world know under which flag we are fighting. Those who have suffered will remain true, and those new in the cause will learn to love it for the good it has done to society and the human race.

CHATTING

The sit-down strike has been much worked if not overworked in recent months, and many places throughout the United States and other parts of the world have felt its influence for good or for bad. The sit-down has caused some serious situations, also some very amusing ones. In one case when employees went on a sit-down in a small industry, the proprietor, who was also salesman for the industry, also sat down. No sales, no need to work.

Many have been the demands made as a result of these disturbances in our industrial fields, and to date it can hardly be said in fairness just what may have been won or lost in the efforts put forth.

One thing is certain. There has not been one sit-down strike which did not bring about some result. In each case there has been both loss and gain, according to which side one may have been on.

At 7:30 on a recent morning the employees of a drug company in the city of Milwaukee, Wis., sat down. Telephone calls went unanswered while the employees amused themselves playing bridge, smoking, or chatting. They did in men on the road received telegrams telling them to sit down. They did. In their parked automobiles. The employees claimed the company hired young men and fired them when they were ripe for pay increases. These strikers wanted no pay increase. What they did want was their manager fired. Late that afternoon they were winners, for that is what took place.

Several years ago, before the present method of settling disputes became such a vogue, the following story came over the radio: A certain family had a maid servant who had been giving excellent service for some time without cause for complaint. Suddenly one day at noon the mistress told her she was dismissed. No reason was given, nor was pay for past service offered. The maid left the living room immediately and retired to her room on the second floor. Thinking she had gone to prepare for her departure, no further attention was given the subject. Several hours passed and the maid had not yet appeared. The mistress went to investigate and found the maid lying in bed. Thinking her ill, a physician was summoned. He arrived, went through all preliminaries and asked all sorts of questions. Finally the physician said: "Girl, what is wrong? You are not sick." The girl replied that she was not sick. That after all her satisfactory service with this family she had been suddenly dismissed. They owed her \$30, and she was going to remain there until she received the same.

The physician smiled, then said: "Move over, girl; they owe me \$50." Cannot vouch for the truthfulness of this story, but this does seem a good way to collect in certain cases.

This from the April Typographical Journal: "Among the many stories of holiday bonus distributions, one uncovered by the Philadelphia Record seems to stand out rather prominently. J. Harvey Gravell, president and main owner of the American Paint Company at Ambler, Pa., who started his plant in 1914 with a bucket, a broomstick and a good idea, gave his 76 employees about \$100,000. If they had debts, he paid them, one of \$4,500; if they were 'out of the red' he gave them \$100 or more, stating he was just giving his men the money they actually produced."

After all, that is the only thing labor has ever asked for, and the only thing for which these fights are staged.

When arrested in South Bend, Indiana, Morris Levin told the police he could speak 48 languages and 300 dialects. He answered questions in a dozen tongues, but when asked to sign his name in English on a fingerprint card he said: "I can't do it. But I can write it in 29 other languages."

It may be, as time goes by, that he will also learn what we call the English language, then his education may be complete.

germ of dictatorship and of autocratic rule shall not find root in the labor movement of our land we call upon all workers organized and unorganized, and upon all trade unions outside of the fold to rally to the banner of the A. F. of L., which has not only built the American labor movement but which has nurtured the very organizations that would now destroy it.

GOOGE CHALLENGES LEWIS GROUP; WILL TAKE FIELD IN "CLARION CALL FOR A. F. L. BANNER & AMERICANISM"

ANNISTON, ALA., April 28.—The American Federation of Labor opened a drive yesterday to an opposition stronghold—cotton textiles—in its southern conflict with John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization.

George Googe, ranking southern officer of the A. F. of L., challenged the Lewis labor group in an address here before the Alabama Federation of Labor, which had been "purged" of Lewis supporters on Googe's instruction. Textile workers already are organized in many southern mills under the Lewis banner as members of the United Textile Workers of America.

Googe, emissary in the South of A. F. of L. President William Green, said organizers would take the field immediately in "a clarion call of banner of the A. F. of L. and true Americanism."

Before delegates from Alabama's craft unions, he condemned the "sit-down and slow-down strike" and pledged the federation to work against "the subversive proponents of foreign ideals, imported from Moscow, Berlin and the Orient."

"The time has arrived," he said, "when the integrity or even the existence of American trade unionism, and of our American system of government, are at stake." Discussing the textile organization drive, Googe said it would be made "by southerners for southerners." He said the federation planned to urge the 320,000 textile workers to come directly under the A. F. of L. "We are opposed to any widening of differentials in wages in the South," he said, "and we join the committee of southern Governors in that fight."

MAYOR DOUGLAS LED IN PRIMARY, DURHAM, HUDSON, ALBEA FOLLOWING IN ORDER—ELECTION ON MAY 4TH

Mayor Ben E. Douglas slid into office again in Monday's primary by a vote of 6,472, while his opponent ex-mayor Arthur H. Wearn received only 3,599. The biggest vote for a member of the council, not including Mayor Douglas, was that cast for W. Roy Hudson, who received 5,527 votes.



BEN E. DOUGLAS
In the order of the votes they received the other tabulations were: W. Roy Hudson, 5,528; John F. Durham, 5,482; Claude L. Albea, 5,383; John L. Wilkinson, 4,986; J. S. Nance, 4,903; H. H. Baxter, 4,480; W. N. Hovis, 4,785; L. R. Sides, 4,490; J. Hamp Huntley, 3,899; J. S. Tipton (eliminated), 3,869. The other member of the present council, John F. Boyd, did not offer for re-election.

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINEES
The six nominated for the school board, in the order of their standing, were: Rev. Herbert Spough, 5,507; J. Spencer Bell, 4,642; Frank S. Worthington, 3,408; Mrs. G. S. Horne, 3,387; Mrs. C. T. Wanzer, 2,854; and N. C. Burns, 2,162. Those eliminated from the school board race were: S. C. Vaughn, 1,412; and Mrs. H. L. McCrorey, 1,313. Mrs. McCrorey is the wife of the president of Johnson C. Smith university.

THE COUNCIL RUNOFF
The seven men who will be pitted against the nine councilmen in the election as the result of their second high position in their respective wards are: Tony Blackwell, 2,921, ward 2; Thomas M. Webb, 1,734, ward 4; T. V. Griswold, 2,917, ward 5; Dr. W. E. Wishart, 2,131, ward 7; Ben Favell, 2,473, ward 8; C. D. Brady, 1,189, ward 9; and A. Parks Little, 2,823, ward 11. Four candidates were unopposed in their respective wards and automatically go into the election. These are Mr. Griswold, Mr. Brady, Mr. Little and Councilman Wilkinson.

Central Labor Union Considering Labor Day Celebration; Comm. Appointed

A very small attendance of delegates, but more than the usual number of visitors, marked last night's meeting of Central Labor Union. With the exception of the appointment of a committee to look into the ability of a big Labor Day celebration in Charlotte, with the object in view of observing the day as it should be, with the closing of plants, etc., only the regular routine was gone through with. The Labor Day celebration committee consisted of J. McElie, Electricians; Dewese, Textile; Kiser, Plumbers; Witter, Typographical; Boone, Carpenters; Fullerton, Team-

sters; Green, Musicians; Fowler, Moving Picture Operators; Funderburke, Brewers; Moore, Machinists; E. L. Calloway, of the Hosiery Workers; C. I. Danenburg, same, and Seth Brewer, C. I. O. organizer, were among visitors.

Seth Brewer On C. I. O. Staff
The Journal learns that Seth Brewer, a Typographical Union man, and a former president of the Charlotte local, is on the staff of U. T. W., under Ray Nixon, state organizing director, and at the present time president of the Typographical Union. He has offices in the Independence building. Watermelons originally came from tropical Africa.