

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Truthful, Honest, Impartial

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Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1937

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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A. F. L. GIVEN CONFIDENCE PLEDGE BY SIX PAST PRESIDENTS OF STATE BODY IN A FORMAL STATEMENT

Six past presidents of the North Carolina Federation of Labor have cast their lot with the American Federation of Labor as against the Committee for Industrial Organization in the State, in a joint statement issued Sunday through W. M. Witter of Charlotte, publicity director for the American Federation of Labor in North Carolina.

These six men are the only ones who have headed the State Federation since it was organized, with the exception of Roy Lawrence, president since 1930 until he was ousted at a meeting called some time ago by George Googe, southern representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Lawrence was not asked to sign the statement since "of course, he would not have signed it."

In the statement, the six former presidents urged all organized workers to join the A. F. of L., and for all labor unions and all central bodies to send delegates to the State Federation meeting in Salisbury on July 26, 27 and 28.

The C. I. O. was not mentioned by name, but the statement said, "Our long experience in the labor movement gives us absolute assurance of the fact the American Federation of Labor is the only force or influence prepared to properly safeguard the rights and interests of the men and women of labor."

The six who signed the statement were O. R. Jarrett, Carpenters' union, Asheville; W. E. Shuping, Machinists' union, Salisbury; Major W. F. Moody, Musicians' union, Raleigh; James F. Barrett, Typographical union, Asheville; C. P. Barringer, Railway Clerks' union, Salisbury; and T. A. Wilson, Typographical union, Winston-Salem.

FORMAL STATEMENT

The statement of the six past presidents follows:

"We, whose names appear below, have each had the honor and distinction of serving the State Federation of Labor in North Carolina as president. Each of us has served our respective union and city central labor union throughout many years. Our terms as president began in 1903, and ended in 1930, covering a period of 27 years, and our geographical locations cover the state from the east to the west."

"Individually and collectively, throughout all of these years, we have been proud to be enrolled as members of the great American Federation of Labor. We have preached its gospel, taught its philosophy, sung its praises and gloried in its achievements. We are proud of the economic and patriotic record of the A. F. of L., and rejoice in its ex-

cellent reputation for keeping inviolate its contracts and agreements. "We have seen the hours of labor in North Carolina reduced from 84 to 40 hours a week, and witnessed improvement of working conditions that is most gratifying. We have sponsored social legislation, free schools and compulsory school attendance, with free text books as part of a free school system, all of these have been obtained by the State Federation of Labor under the banner of the A. F. of L."

A POWERFUL FORCE

"The American Federation of Labor is a powerful force, working year in and year out for the economic and social advancement of the men and women who work for wages. "We proudly point to the fact that the American Federation of Labor meets all challenges of changing conditions, and through the Federal Labor unions directly affiliated with the A. F. of L., provision was made years ago for organization and protection of mass workers in mass production industries, thus safeguarding the interests of all workers, regardless of craft or condition. Our long experience in the labor movement gives us absolute assurance of the fact that the American Federation of Labor is the only force or influence prepared to properly safeguard the rights and interests of the men and women of labor."

"We urge all unorganized workers to join the American Federation of Labor, and request all local labor unions and city central bodies affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to send delegates to our State Federation of Labor convention which meets in Salisbury on the 26th, 27th and 28th of July. Brother C. A. Fink of Spencer, is president of the State Federation of Labor in North Carolina, and Brother H. G. Fisher, 527 West Liberty street, Salisbury, is secretary-treasurer of the Federation."

Labor Notes

Central Labor Union will meet next Wednesday night at 8 o'clock. Election of officers will be the principal event of the meeting.

A. J. Dumas is a new delegate to Central Labor Union from the Plumbers and Steamfitters, rather an old delegate who has "come back."

All the locals in Charlotte are reporting new members and increased interest in the A. F. of L., which is a healthy sign for the legitimate labor movement.

Don't forget the State Convention at Salisbury, July 26-28, and get your delegates set. If you are not a delegate be a visitor at the convention. Labor history in N. C. will be made.

News reaches us that Mrs. W. E. McKamey, who has been critically ill at a hospital in Newport News, has passed the crisis and after several blood transfusions hope is held out for her recovery.

The board of directors of the Independent Grocers has endorsed the new Grocery Store Clerks Union recently organized in Charlotte under the A. F. of L. banner. They are advocating a half holiday Wednesday of each week throughout the year.

The Patriotic Sons of America hold their meetings every Tuesday night. A large number of A. F. of L. men are numbered in their ranks, as they are making a fight along the same lines as the A. F. of L., and with them it is a fight to the finish on Communism, and everything that is not 100 per cent American.

A "late letter" from Lenoir tells The Journal of seven delegates from

Cornelius Boy Wins First Prize In B. & L. Contest

Herman Howard, of Cornelius, won 1st prize of \$100 with this essay in the state Keeler Memorial Essay Contest held at the recent convention of the North Carolina Building and Loan League at Blowing Rock. The League annually sponsors the contest among high school students of the state. Mr. Howard was successful in school, county and district elimination contests, and represented Mecklenburg county, District 7, in the final contest, competing with eight other contestants from various parts of the state.

The Federal local at that place to the State Federation convention, as follows: J. J. Bush, Clyde Thonbug, Lee Abernathy, Jonas Clark, John Tilley, Albert P. Beck, Raymond Hart. The week is filled with meeting dates and Sunday will be given over to the unorganized workers. They are also planning to put the Negroes into a Union on Thursday night of this week.

"The Boaters" are due to tie up in this harbor before our next issue appears, and we hope they will have had fair sailing and make a safe landing in Charlotte. But the Colonel can only stay in port a short while, ere he will be bound Salisburyward for the State convention of the A. F. of L. "A word to the wise is sufficient," so the saying goes, applies to the new clerks union of the grocery stores in Charlotte. This organization will eventually broaden into the field of other stores, and promises to give Charlotte labor its greatest union organization, as far as membership goes.

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LABOR CONDITIONS ARE PUBLIC CONCERN

I do not prize the word cheap. It is not a word of hope, nor a word of cheer, but it is a badge of poverty and a signal of distress. Cheap merchandise means cheap men and cheap men a cheap country.

EDITORIAL

ARE THE TEXTILE WORKERS SEEING THE LIGHT?

It seems to be gradually dawning upon the Textile workers of the Carolinas that the C. I. O. organization contracts are not best for them, and many notes of dissatisfaction are already being heard from those enrolled in the present setup. A note of discord of recent date is emanating from Bennettsville, S. C., (and there are others) and the A. F. of L. has been asked into that territory, but, from what this writer can learn, the management is vitriolic against all forms of organized labor, of whatever type, or character, so we have no particular concern in the matter. The A. F. of L. textile organizing campaign is going forward, but it does want both employer and employee to understand that the cause being espoused is strictly one that will give benefit to the employee and employer, relinquishing nothing for which the A. F. of L. stands, asking for nothing impossible, but safeguarding the rights of the worker at any and all times, yet not assuming a position of dictatorship, leaving it up to the employee if he desires to join a union, and not making it mandatory that his dues be extracted from his pay envelope.

The A. F. of L. has endeavored for more than half a century to educate the workers to the point that they could see the benefit of organization, and millions have learnt the lesson in the slow but steady climb from semi-serfdom to a state of independence of both thought and expression. This condition was not built by bullying, coercion or confiscation, but by argument, perseverance, and the ballot. It was not the fantastic dream of Communism, it was the yearning in the hearts and minds of patriots whose desire it was to benefit their fellow workers, casting aside all personal ambition, not caring for the loaves and fishes, as it were, but a love for their fellowmen and the children of men.

The solid rock was the basis of the A. F. of L., and it will endure, for the principle is right, its leaders have been men of honor, and men who have been honored. Its past record can be looked back upon with pride, and it is building for the future upon the same principle that its founders and its membership have sacrificed both life and money.

The A. F. of L. has no apology to make to Capital, or to any man, for its actions or its course, and each and every loyal member of its army of nearly four million workers stands true for America, and American ideals and the Flag and Constitution of the United States is the banner under which it is fighting.

So let's gird up our loins, put on the armor of faith and justice, and go forward into the battle for true Americanism and the A. F. of L.

The Textile Workers of the South are 100 per cent American, their forefathers were the bulwark in our fight for freedom; they love their country and their flag, and it is to them, along with other true Americans that the A. F. of L. is looking for support.

CHATTING

BY HARRY BOATE

The following notes of comparison and changes came under my notice some time ago and were thought worthy of reproduction, so here it is for your instruction or pleasure, according to your individual ideas:

1881
Fifty years ago women wore hoopskirts, bustles, petticoats, ruffled cotton drawers, high buttoned shoes, flannel nightgowns, puffs in their hair, did their own cooking, baking, cleaning, washing, ironing, raised big families, went to church on Sundays, were too busy to be sick.

Men wore whiskers, square hats, Ascot ties, red flannel underwear, brass-toes boots, big watches and chains, chopped wood for stoves, bathed once a week, drank 10-cent whiskey and 5-cent beer, rode bicycles, buggies or sleighs, went in for politics, worked 12 hours a day, and lived to a ripe old age.

Stoves burned coal, oil lamps, carried everything from a needle to a plow, trusted everybody, never took an inventory, placed orders for goods a year in advance, always made money.

1931

Today women wear silk stockings, short skirts, low shoes, an ounce of underwear, have bobbed hair, smoke, paint and powder, drink cocktails, play bridge, drive cars, have pet dogs, and go in for politics.

Men have high blood pressure, wear no hats and some no hair, shave their whiskers, shoot golf, bathe twice a day, drink poison, play the stock market, ride in airplanes, never go to bed the same day they get up, are misunderstood at home, work five hours a day, play tennis, die young.

Stores have electric lights, cash registers, never have what the customers want, trust nobody, take inventory daily, never buy in advance, have overhead, mark-up, mark-down, quota, budget, advertising, stock control, annual, semi-annual, end of month; dollar day, founders' day, and rummage sales, and never make any money.

And here is another item from a recent publication of more or less interest to all, under the title, "Women's Clothes":

Moralists, satirists, humorists and gossips from the beginning of history have busied themselves with the extreme styles of women's dress. Even the writer of the story of the Garden of Eden, like the lady was dressed. Isah, the prophet-statesman, towered among the politicians of his day as a giant in the midst of pigmies; yet this great statesman-see notes "The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the head bands, and the ear-rings, and the nose jewels, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the cringing pins" of the women of his day. Men and women in middle life can remember the days when American women bound their waists and Chinese women bound their feet, and the women with insect waists shed tears over the cruel customs of foot-binding in China, yet never pitied themselves with displaced vitals. But with a change of style the Chinese women do not bind their feet and the American women do not bind their waists. Not so long ago the skirts swept the ground and one woman wore half a dozen skirts at one time, but now a single skirt reaching to the knees is a "rent." And amid all these mutations in dress through the centuries, tongue and pen have been busy in a vain attempt to take care of the situation. What are we going to do about it? Just like we have been doing—let the "female of the species" do as she will. Fortunately, it is hardly a moral question anyhow.

How can you expect the working men and women to be religiously reverent of the letter of the law when the mighty and powerful who want the rest of the community to consider them models act this way to the law?—Ferdinand Pecora.

Civilization could never advance without the liberals; it would fall into anarchy without the conservatives.—Dr. Charles A. Browne, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LABOR PAPER. It serves the territory thoroughly of those who buy your wares and make a local labor paper possible for the workers. **THEY READ IT, ENDORSE IT, AND PATRONIZE ITS ADVERTISERS.**

SOLID BASIS FOR ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT IS DEMOCRATIC SELF-GOVERNMENT, SAYS WM. GREEN

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor
(As told to Fred Pasley)

(Editor's Note.—The following statement by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, was published on the "Economic Battle Page" of the July 8 issues of the New York Daily News, the Cleveland News, and other newspapers.)

One hundred and seventy-one years ago the people of America joined together against the rule of absolutism to safeguard their future security. They declared themselves independent to end the mounting injuries inflicted upon them by an absolute, arbitrary and tyrannical government. Having achieved that independence they proceeded to perfect a nation upon the foundations of democracy, freedom and justice.

Built upon the solid foundations of liberty and self-government America has attained a place in the family of nations that is characterized not only by its industrial and technical supremacy, but most of all by the enduring quality of its political organization which made it possible for the people to achieve better living as well as the greatest degree of freedom in self-government.

A. F. OF L. STANDS ON VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES

Fifty-six years ago the workers of America joined together to cement an effort extending over a period of years—to form a thorough Federation which would embrace every union in America into one national labor movement. That marked the beginning of the American Federation of Labor, conceived as one great national organization to which all unions should belong and which could speak and act with the strength of all. Striving to attain freedom and independence from economic oppression through union organization, the American Federation of Labor, like the nation itself, was founded on the principles of voluntary, democratic self-government. The enduring quality of democratic organization of the Federation was forcefully demonstrated to the workers in the successful growth of the Federation from a modest beginning into the best labor movement in the world.

The American Federation of Labor has successfully weathered all the crisis it encountered in the fifty-six years of its existence and has outlived all its competitors. It did that because it has been an organization that abhorred arbitrary and dictatorial action, an organization that had no authority and no power except of a voluntary character. The voluntary coming together of unions with common needs and common aims has proved to be a stronger and more lasting bond than could be welded by any autocratic authority no matter in whom such authority were vested.

GOMPERS VISIONED SELF-SEEKER MENACE

That the future advancement of Labor depends on its adherence to voluntary principles was recognized with solemn emphasis by Samuel Gompers, who dedicated his whole life to the service of Labor, in the last word of counsel he left for the movement which he had led and helped to build.

"The very success of our organization has brought additional and serious dangers," said Gompers. "Office in the labor movement now offers opportunity for something in addition to service—it offers opportunity for the self-seeker who sees an instrumentality for personal advancement, both in the economic and in the political field."

Speaking as one who with clean hands and with a singleness of purpose had served the labor movement honorably, he urged devotion to the fundamentals of humanity liberty—the principles of voluntarism.

"No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion," he said. "If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible. There is no way whereby our labor movement may be assured sustained progress in determining its policies and its plans other than sincere democratic deliberation until a unanimous decision is reached. This may seem a cumbersome, slow method to the impatient, but the impatient are more concerned for immediate triumph than for the education of constructive development."

C. I. O. LEADERSHIP FLAUNTS DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURE

The danger to Labor which Gompers foresaw did not confront the movement until there came forward a man who has proved himself to be a self-seeker and who saw the labor movement as an instrumentality for personal advancement. That man was John Lewis.

He has defied the democratic

processes; he has rejected the majority rule; he has flaunted the voluntary principles of unionism. Having broken his oath of allegiance to the American Federation of Labor, which he had taken voluntarily when he entered the labor movement, he by persuasion and compulsion has made others violate their trust.

The record of what followed is well known. Surrounding himself with men he had previously considered so unfit as to denounce, John Lewis proceeded to build political capital on the bitter resentment of the workers of their economic oppression. Having gathered a following, he attempted to rule unions, not serve them. He discarded union self-government and brushed aside the democratic majority rule. He replaced union democracy with union dictatorship. No matter what the means before him he never turned and never stayed.

TRIES TO RULE BY MINORITY CONTROL

He always possessed a minority complex. He attempted to dominate the American Federation of Labor through minority control. Through the force and coercion exercised by a minority he carried that same principle into his attempt to win strikes. He endeavored to win strikes with only a portion of the workers organized. He neglected to essential, fundamental, primary principle necessary to success, and that is, organization of the workers first. Without asking the workers whether they wanted to strike or wanted to work he called them out on strikes, even when he knew that such action could only lead to violence and in the end to defeat. The lawlessness and anarchy wreaked through the nation by his Committee for Industrial Organization have produced bitterness and resentment on the part of workers, employers and the public alike.

RESPONSIBLE FOR REPOSSESSIVE LEGISLATION

The only ultimate result of this could be restrictive and repressive legislation from which all Labor will suffer. A bill restricting the freedom and independence of trade unions has already been voted out of the Michigan legislature. Other and even more dangerous measures are now pending before legislatures of other states and before congress.

Just as the responsibility for the present division in the ranks of Labor fully rests on John Lewis and his Committee for Industrial Organization, so the responsibility for any and all damage to the trade union movement by the current flow of restrictive legislation will fall on him and his.

Daniel Boone who opened up and thousands of miles of territory was twice stripped of all the lands he owned, and died without owning enough land to be buried on.

The leather used in the automobile industry in one year would make a pair of shoes for every person in 8 states, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado and Utah.

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS IN ARREARS SEND IN A CHECK

State Federation Convention

Dates:

July 26, 27, 28—at Salisbury. Be sure and have your delegates present on time.

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

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.