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The Charlotte Labor Journal

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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Has CIO Disintegration Set In?

WILL LEWIS PICK F.D.R.'s SUCCESSOR? IS HE BUILDING POLITICAL MACHINE IN NON-PARTISAN LABOR LEAGUE?

(A special A.P. story by Joseph L. Miller, will prove interesting to many of our readers, and is published without comment.—Ed.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—John L. Lewis has set out to build a political machine which associates say he hopes will make him the dominating factor in the choice of the next President of the United States.

They said Lewis was highly disappointed with President Roosevelt for refusing to step into the recent steel strike and was determined to play so large a part in the 1940 election that his candidate, if elected, would be obligated to support him at every turn.

Some of them said his political influence might develop to such proportions before the beginning of the next campaign that he might decide to run for President. They added, however, that Lewis' determination to build up the C. I. O. and its political power completely overshadowed any personal ambition.

Lewis now counts nine States as spheres of dominating C. I. O. political influence. These are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Wisconsin.

In 11 others he figures the C. I. O. vote would have considerable weight. These are Minnesota, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Oregon, Washington, California, Maryland, New Jersey and Alabama.

In seven others, he thinks the C. I. O. could make itself felt in an election. These are Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Utah.

As his first step in building a political machine, Lewis took over Labor's Non-Partisan league for the C. I. O. He accomplished this by obtaining the resignation of Senator Berry, Democrat, Tennessee, from the presidency, clearing up the league's financial obligations and drastically revamping the headquarters personnel.

Lewis decided to make no effort to purge the league's local divisions of American Federation of Labor members. But he wanted no A. F. of L. influence at the top. Berry is president of the Printing Pressmen's union, still loyal to the A. F. of L.

C. I. O. FINANCING FIGHT

He also decided that the C. I. O., rather than the United Mine Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, should finance the league in the development he plans for it. The miners and the clothing workers have paid most of the league's bills so far.

This move followed two other developments that Lewis' associates consider politically significant. The first was the chartering of the State, County and Municipal Employees of America and the United Federal Workers of America by the C. I. O. Lewis is known to feel that government employees often are political leaders of high or low degree and that their membership in C. I. O. unions would tend to lead many times their number to the C. I. O. in a political scrap.

The second development was the affiliation of the agricultural and cannery workers with the C. I. O. Lewis hopes to enroll hundreds of thousands of farm hands into this union and thus build up C. I. O. political strength in the farm belt—along with improving the farm hands' economic lot.

NO THIRD PARTY

These associates said Lewis definitely doesn't want to start a third party in 1940, but that he expects an attractive offer from the Republicans in the way of a labor platform. They added that he expects this offer from the Democrats to bring him into the Democratic camp at election time. But he is making no commitments now. He feels that much could happen to change the entire situation in three years.

Before the New Deal, Lewis was a Republican. He campaigned for President Hoover's re-election in 1932. President Roosevelt's support in NRA days, however, led him to switch parties. He announced as early as Labor day, 1935, that the United Mine Workers, to a man, would support Mr. Roosevelt for re-election. The miners contributed heavily to the Democratic campaign fund. Lewis, Berry, and Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, organized Labor's Non-Partisan league to put both C. I. O. and A. F. of L. unions "on the record for Roosevelt." Lewis made campaign speeches. He levied extra dues on the miners to help finance the campaign.

The first sign of friction between Lewis and the President appeared last winter during the General Motors strike. Lewis publicly reminded Mr. Roosevelt that labor had supported him in the election and expected presidential support in great economic battles. Mr. Roosevelt replied that there came times when statements were not in order. The President's remark generally was construed as a "rebuttal" although persons close to the white house said the President meant only to say that any statement might block the success of Federal mediation.

Lewis chose to accept the general interpretation. Lewis' lieutenants repeatedly urged the President to step into the steel strike, but Mr. Roosevelt left Federal intervention to Secretary Perkins. At one time, the President said the general public thought "a plague for both your houses" after strike violence had broken out.

"Thunder In The City" Charlotte Theatre Offering

Watch Edward G. Robinson totting a machine gun across the screen while that well-known leer twists his face into something really frightening, and you never realize that you are observing one of Hollywood's more cultured persons. But in private life, Eddie is a man of the arts, a connoisseur of music, a collector of paintings and etchings, a linguist with six foreign languages at his command.

Robinson, who is currently starred in Columbia's new Atlantic Film production, "Thunder in the City," showing Friday and Saturday at the Charlotte Theatre, was born in Bucharest, Roumania, but was brought to this country by his parents while still in his early childhood. After graduating from New York's public schools, Eddie attended Columbia University, which he left with no less than a Master of Arts degree.

Among Robinson's earliest ambitions were those to become a minister and a lawyer. Somehow, these fell aside, and Eddie took to amateur theatricals and vaudeville. Breaking into the legitimate theater, Robinson soon was recognized as a topflight player. He appeared in ten productions for the Theater Guild.

The Union Label is the greatest ASSURANCE of quality and the best INSURANCE for Trade Unionism. Working conditions for every worker.

Some Of The Men You Know In Labor

[First of a Series of Sketches on Leaders in Labor in This Section.]

(By PEROXIDE)

William S. Greene, the new secretary-treasurer of Charlotte Central Labor Union, the secretary of the Musicians local, who also runs a gent's furnishing establishment, and plays in different orchestras as a side line, still has time to argue with you on any and all questions, and if you will give him an inkling as to where you stand, he will be in position to give you a good argument, even if he doesn't believe in what he is arguing for or against. But, Bill Green is a hard worker, and if he likes you will go down the line with you, and he tries to like everyone. He took a dying local and built it into one of the largest in Charlotte, and then went out to install new locals and revamped old ones here and there.

So here's to Brother Greene—may he live long and prosper.

If Union workers will prevail upon Union Label products they will have the best assurance of prevailing.

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

IS REVOLT OF CIO LEADERS AT HAND? SIX LEADERS ON VERGE DESERTING; PRES. HOWARD AMONG NUMBER

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—The New York Herald Tribune in a special dispatch from its Washington bureau said last night that six influential leaders who collaborated with John L. Lewis in forming the Committee for Industrial Organization are on the verge of tacitly repudiating the Lewis labor policies.

Those named by the newspaper as differing with Lewis on such C. I. O. stratagems as the sit-down strike, in particular, are:

Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical union.

Francis Gorman, head of the United Textile Workers.

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers' union.

Harvey C. Fremming, president of the Oil Field, Gas Well, and Refinery Workers.

Max Zaritsky, president of the cap and millinery department of the United Hatters, Cap, and Millinery Workers' International union.

Another reason for the reported disaffection, according to The Herald Tribune, was the "domineering attitude" toward the Roosevelt administration which the powerful C. I. O. sub-leaders see in the censure of the President voted recently by the Steel Workers organizing committee and the executive board of Lewis' United Mine Workers of America.

The paper says: "Organizers in the field have reported to the union heads that since the widely publicized break between Mr. Lewis and the President, the organizing drive has been slowing up. It is no longer possible, the organizers say, to lure recruits with assurance that 'the President wants you to join'."



Continuing my story of last week. Leaving Washington late in the morning we found ourselves on the Washington-Baltimore boulevard, and in a short time we were in that great city, wandering about in the narrow, cobbled streets and observing how differently people must live in a great city as compared to the surroundings in the city of Charlotte and other cities of the south which are younger and not so crowded. Leaving Baltimore we arrived in Gettysburg, Pa., scene of fierce fighting during the days of the only great family quarrel the United States has ever experienced. First to attract our attention was the home of Jennie Wade, the only woman killed during that affair, and it was an accident. While baking bread for the soldiers a stray bullet found its way through two doors and struck the young lady, who never revived. Then a trip to the National Soldiers' Cemetery and a journey over the battlefield adjoining, with its beautiful roads and monuments, and we were again on our way.

Crossing the Susquehanna river and entering Harrisburg, Pa., just at the time of closing up for the day, we found congestion somewhat akin to that which is met in any busy city at the close of business. A trip over the business section, viewing the Capitol and other government buildings, and a view of the Governor's mansion, and we were again in the wide open spaces. A few hours of driving past newly-cut wheat fields with their sweet scent, and we were in the small city of Huntingdon, where the night was comfortably passed. Driving over the city in the morning, many changes for the better were noted and the city is much larger than in the years when we were more familiar with it. Crossing a mountain and driving through a pleasant valley, Williamsburg, Pa., loomed up. This town is the home of many men who went out and made fame for themselves and did honorable duty for their country. Among these may be named an aviator named Stultz, who piloted the late-lamented Amelia Earhart on her first trip around the world. A short chat with a chum of boyhood days and the journey proceeded to Altoona, the place of my birth. Many changes both in the city and its inhabitants.

Once the home of grandparents and many aunts and uncles, only two were left, with the happy co-incident of meeting an aunt from Philadelphia who was visiting her brother at the time. Had not seen her for many years, and it was a real treat on both sides. The night was spent in Altoona.

Morning found us on our way west. Driving under the railroad at the famous Horseshoe Curve of the Pennsylvania railroad, we reached the top of the Alleghenies and descended to Johnstown, scene of the steel strike. All seemed quiet, and an inquiry concerning the strike brought the reply that all had returned to work. Leaving Johnstown behind, in a few hours we entered Pittsburgh, that city which seems to spread all over Allegheny county. Finding the home of my sister on the hilltop above the city, we unloaded baggage and proceeded to relax, but not for long. After a meal we boarded another machine and visited a brother a few miles down the river, for a short chat. A night of rest and we were ready for anything that may come, and much came. The only way to see Pittsburgh quick is to go up on one of the numerous hills, then stop and look. Particularly beautiful is the scene at night, when buildings are lighted and automobiles flitting about on all the hillsides.

Sunday morning found us, with other relatives, on our way to Warren, Ohio, where about the largest gathering of the Boate clan ever held took place on a small farm a few miles from the city. There were relatives gathered from as far west as Lafayette, Ind., and the conversations concerned others scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific who were not present. Sorry we could not meet them all. However, there were 22 in the group who enjoyed the bountiful spread. Some of those present I had not seen for near 40 years. (Careful, or I will tell my age). And this was not a gathering of has-beens. All active in daily life.

Returning to Pittsburgh in the early evening, the next two days were passed in touring the city and surroundings, business and residential districts, parks and boulevards. Also had a good view of one public swimming pool designed to accommodate more than 5,000 people at one time. This is a real marvel and well worth a visit.

Leaving Pittsburgh in a steady rain, we headed south toward Cumberland, Md., and on into Keyser, W. Va., thence to Winchester, Va., and Newmarket, Va., where a stop was made for the night and a visit to the Endless Caverns. Had hoped to see the end of that big hole in the ground, but it just was not there. However, it was wonderful, and the system of electric lights made it a delightful trip. Nature has done some beautiful and wonderful work in that underground museum. A trip to a cave is the only way to explain it. Man can not do it with words.

Morning and again on our way. Over the Natural Bridge and into Roanoke, Va., where a call was made to see a cousin recently bereaved of her life's companion. However, she bears up well and a pleasant conversation took place. Sorry time forbids to longer stay. Out through the city, up over Stone Mountain, down into Winston-Salem, and again we are home, once which hour our time has been occupied in endeavoring to unwind our head and make straight a tangled brain. Perhaps in a few weeks we will be back to normal and be able to understand what we are doing.

ACTION ON WAGE AND HOUR BILL DELAYED — SAID PRESIDENT IS AWAITING PROPOSED AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—President Roosevelt took the position yesterday that nothing should be done by Congress to fix minimum wages lower than the minimums now prevailing in various areas. This was his comment that he had asked House members to delay action on pending wage-hour legislation until certain amendments could be submitted.

The amendments, which would direct a proposed labor standards board to consider prevailing wages in fixing minimums, were offered by the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Roosevelt said he had not read the amendments himself, but favored their principles as outlined to him by President William Green of the A. F. of L.

Besides the prevailing wages provision, the amendments also would forbid the board to interfere with any collective bargaining agreement. They also would delete a section of the pending bill under which the Walsh-Healey act would be placed under the proposed new board.

The Walsh-Healey act provides for the fixing of labor standards in plants doing work for the government. Both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Green opposed giving the new board the task of administering this act.

Earlier in the day puzzled members of the House labor committee had shoved the wage-hour legislation aside temporarily amid conflicting reports as to whether President Roosevelt, or Green, caused the delay.

Green assumed the responsibility when he left the White House but Chairman Norton, Democrat of New Jersey, told newsmen the committee had postponed consideration of the legislation "at the request of President Roosevelt."

Committeemen, some of whom professed themselves "astounded," said the meeting had been halted after Green had conferred privately with Mrs. Norton and she informed them the Chief Executive had requested delay until some amendments could be submitted.

TYPOGRAPHICAL MEETING ONE OF MUCH INTEREST

Charlotte Typographical Union, No. 338, held its regular monthly meeting last Sunday afternoon with the usual large attendance that has prevailed throughout the summer months, and the same degree of enthusiasm being evident. Three new members were obligated and applications for membership received. Report of the auditing committee showed the finances in good shape under the watchful eye of Secretary-Treasurer Hugh M. Sykes.

The president was instructed to appoint a scale committee to look over the situation and report its findings at the next meeting. The president, Henry Stalls, announced committees for the ensuing year, and asked for co-operation of each and every one, and judging by the amount of enthusiasm he is throwing into his work the end of our next official year will find the local Typographical unit in excellent shape.

JOHNSTOWN MINERS VOTE TO END STRIKE

JOHNSTOWN, Pa.,—Aug. 2.—Striking miners voted yesterday to return to work next week at the Bethlehem Steel corporation's mines in Johnstown and Heilwood, Pa. President James Mark of district No. 2 of the United Mine Workers said he advised the men to return to work. Three mines in Johnstown will open Monday, the company said, ending a strike called several weeks ago.

VACATIONS WITH PAY GIVEN BY SOME MILLS

A number of cotton mills of the south are making what is being called the experiment of giving their employes a vacation of a week with full pay. This should not be an experiment. It should have long ago become a fixed and inviolable rule in this industry. Vacations-with-pay are the rule and not the exception with business firms as well as with a large number of industrial organizations. Such a similar practice might well be considered as far more than an experiment in cotton manufacturing.

HOW IS IT DONE

Acquaintance: "Did you ever run up against a mathematical problem that stumped you?" Famous Mathematician: "Yes, indeed, I could never figure out how, according to the advertisements, 85 per cent of the dentists recommended one brand of tooth paste, 92 per cent recommended another brand, and 95 per cent recommended still another brand."

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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)