

## JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT ASKS DOES C. I. O. PRACTICE WHAT IT PREACHES? OTHER QUESTIONS ALSO

To Editor Charlotte Labor Journal:

The C. I. O. leaders claim that they are not in favor of disrupting or destroying any legitimate trade union. I know of several instances in which we can prove they do not practice what they preach. On August 5, 1937, The Industrial Leader, of Winston-Salem, N. C., carried this announcement by R. R. Lawrence: "Twelve new organizers have been added to the staff, increasing the number of the corps to nearly fifty. This is the answer to those critics who have tried to make it appear that the C. I. O. campaign in the Carolinas is folding up."

The drive, which has been confined largely to the organization of textile and hosiery workers, will now include furniture workers, bus, trolley, and truck drivers, radio, telegraph and telephone employees, miners and lumbermen to which other types of workers will be added later.

Mr. Lawrence said the number of field representatives will be increased as the campaign gains momentum. This action has been planned for several weeks, and the appointment was made by John L. Lewis, of the C. I. O., with the sanction of A. Steve Nance, of Atlanta, Southern Director of the C. I. O. In a statement given to the press he said that the Committee of Industrial Organization plans an immediate and thoroughgoing organization of workers among several classifications of labor in North and South Carolina. Now this does not seem to me they practice what they preach. Of course my international organization is on the fighting front and as I have repeatedly stated, we have never experienced such prosperity. The great curse of the C. I. O. to the trade union movement is that they have not confined themselves to the mass production industries, but those volunteer organizers, endeavoring to make jobs for themselves, have interfered with the legitimate trade unions that have been doing business for years, and have encouraged some of the members to have their legitimate unions by promising them officership, or in other words, promising them jobs in the C. I. O. Five and ten cent organizers. All tending to create dissension within the legitimate labor movement. The question of mass production organizing now, insofar as the C. I. O. is concerned, is a thing of the past. What is now obtaining through the multitude of the C. I. O. organizer is mass destruction. I do not desire to have this article misinterpreted as a plea looking for any quarter because I intend to fight back in every instance as I have done for the past four or five months, against the enemies of Labor, including the manufacturers' associations who hired spies and detectives to destroy our union. It is true there are many men in the C. I. O., especially the old time leaders, who disclaim any knowledge of what is going on, but they can not deceive intelligent men, and they have made no attempt whatever to stop the destruction of labor unions by the riff-raff that are out in many instances representing the C. I. O. there are some old time trade unionists representing the C. I. O. that are endeavoring to do the best they can, but they are outnumbered by the agitators, the Communists, the radicals and the wild-eyed reformers who always flock anywhere they can destroy. And whether they are paid or not in some instances, make very little difference as long as they are preaching the destructive propaganda. In a conference in Cincinnati, which was called by the American Federation of Labor, Daniel J. Tobin, President of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs International Union, said he believed many of the leaders in the C. I. O. were not Communists and were not in favor of some of the things that were done, but in addition to that statement it can now be stated clearly that those same leaders certainly do nothing to stop the "undesirables" from coming into the C. I. O. and from taking hold of the reins in certain districts and running the ship themselves. It is a well known fact that those that never belonged in the labor movement, never were real workers in the cause of the masses, are now out in the front ranks preaching the destruction of the legitimate labor movement, making all kinds of false promises to the innocent multitude of workers who listen to their impossible doctrines and are somewhat influenced by their

illegal un-American preachings. I have no sympathy with Tom Girdler or with his kind because they have fought the American Federation of Labor as they are now fighting the C. I. O., and were the A. F. of L. in the place of the leaders of the C. I. O. now we would be as bitterly assailed by the newspapers and by the officials of the independent steel companies. My sympathy goes out to the multitudes of workers in the steel mills and in other such industries that have been crushed for years and prevented from organizing. At the same time I can not close my eyes to the fact that the leaders of the C. I. O. are responsible for the demoralizing conditions existing among the workers, where men—union men—are fighting each other instead of fighting the common enemy. If conditions keep on as they are now, the enemies of labor, the Tom Girdlers and his kind, will have no need to worry, because Labor will destroy itself as it has done in other countries by its internal fighting and bitterness. Such conditions as have recently been witnessed in many of the large industrial centers, where strikes of groups of workers have taken place and where crimes have been committed against union men and against the innocent public, will bring about the downfall of those groups if they continue. Unfortunately the legitimate trade unions, those that have been doing business

with their employers of many years, will perhaps suffer as a result of the enactment of adverse laws by the state governments and by the national government. Conditions in many centers in the middle west have been bordering on revolution, and it has been predicated by false leadership in many places, who were appealing to the prejudices of the masses. I am of the opinion at this time that some of the men that are leading the C. I. O. organization are building up around themselves a Frankenstein that may destroy them. As I have said before, the newspapers can build you up but the newspapers can also tear you down. And in the breaking down of the movement the masses of the workers will suffer. You can justly ask, what is the answer? There is no answer at this time because a few leaders that a few years ago were not heard of have taken control of the situation and refused to consider the interests of the masses of the toilers of the nation. How long it will last no one knows, but one thing is certain, the toilers will not go forward under present tactics. They are more likely to go backward as they have done in other countries because of their refusal to eliminate from amongst them false, insincere, volunteer leaders who are gloating for publicity at the expense of the toiler. One thing is also certain, that the time will come when many of those leaders will be despised by the workers for some of the things that have happened. In the meantime I advise the members of the American Federation of Labor to be on the job night and day, watching, protecting and defending their unions and the conditions that we have won for the past fifty years by the innumerable sacrifices we have made.

Fraternally yours,  
H. L. Mc.

## Jewelry Workers Win Pay Raise

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Tremendous gains from all over the nation are being reported to headquarters here of the International Jewelry Workers' Union, it was learned through S. E. Beardsley, general secretary-treasurer of the union.

Wide interest was attached to the announcement recently of new agreements secured with the Gorham Manufacturing Company and the Diamond Silver Company both numbered the nation's largest producers of silverware.

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## Superlatives Applied to Hawaiian Volcanoes

Honolulu, T. H.—Colossal is just another adjective to rangers in the United States National park on Hawaii island, 220 miles southeast of here, since they have begun comparing data on the natural features under their guardianship.

The most westerly park in America contains, the rangers report, the following "superlative" features:

Kilauea, the world's largest active volcano.

Haleakala, the world's largest extinct volcano.

Mauna Kea, the highest mountain in the world rising directly from the sea (13,825 feet).

Mauna Loa (13,675 feet), the largest single mountain mass in the world, and the world's most symmetrical mountain.

Halemaumau, the only volcanic fire pit in the world where one may safely drive an automobile to the very brink of the crater.

## Historic Oak Burns

Capetown. — To drive out a swarm of bees a fire was lighted underneath the historic oak at Dalosopha, with the result that the tree was destroyed. It was planted about 1592 by Francois du Toit.

## Buoy Drifts 285 miles

Toledo. — The winds and waves carried a lighted buoy from Maumee bay in Lake Erie here to within 30 miles of Buffalo—277 miles away. Its light out, it was recovered by a lighthouse tender.

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## C. I. O. Plant Closing Leaves Town With "Bare Coffers"

GIBBSBORO, N. J., Aug. 22.—Residents of this 200-year-old rural South Jersey town are hoping for the early reopening of its one industrial plant, which has paid cash for labor for the last 88 years—the Lucas Paint Company.

The plant, a subsidiary of the Sherwin-Williams Company, was closed after the C. I. O.'s lead, oil, paint and varnish workers union won an employe election and sought to negotiate with the company. There were some dismissals. The union charged that they were made because of union activities and called a strike last May.

The town of 800, never overly prosperous and still suffering from the depression, was ripe for union organization with the revival of business. Workers said they saw in unionization increased wages to make up for the lean years. Nearly 70 per cent of the town's swimmers were employed in the plant. But the shut down didn't fit into the picture.

Threatened by moneyless months ahead and the increasing relief rolls, the striking workers repudiated the C. I. O., organized an independent union, and won a large majority of the workers.

"We tried to get the company to negotiate with us," said George chairman of the independent union. "But we failed. Then we appealed to the National Labor Board."

"The company told us the plant was closed because of financial reasons. But the truth is it won't open as long as the C. I. O. is holding a club over it."

Without the union all labor would still be the victim of the long day, the insufficient wage and kindred injustices. Under the present organization of society, labor's only safeguard against a retrogression to former inhuman standards is the union. —Commission on Social Justice, Central Conference of American Rabbis.

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