

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

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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Racketeers Shaking Down "Big Boys" -- Propose To Curb Unions By Way Of N. C. State Legislature

OPENING OF A. F. OF L. MEETING, AT DENVER, SEES FIGHT STARTED ON LEWIS' C. I. O.

DENVER, Colo., Oct. 5.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said last night the C. I. O. was being used as the nucleus for a political organization designed to make John L. Lewis President of the United States.

"I appeal to the American people and the organized workers of America to choose between an unselfish, common sense political policy in labor and one dictated by unreasoning personal ambition, doomed from the outset to failure," Green said.

Green's speech was his second blast of the day at Lewis and his Committee for Industrial Organization. He opened the A. F. of L.'s 75th annual convention by pledging the federation to increasing war to destroy the C. I. O. and to support democracy against the type of dictatorship he said Lewis represented.

For two years the American Federation of Labor has been patient toward the C. I. O., Green said. "First we warned its leaders to desist. We advised them that their course would destroy the unity of the labor movement in this country."

"They paid no heed to our warnings. Instead, they rashly proceeded to break the laws and constitution of the American Federation of Labor and seized control of several of its affiliated unions. They went even further and directed the activities of these unions along lines which were in open violation of our law."

"But we left the door open for the rebellious unions to return. A committee was appointed and instructed to meet with a similar committee representing the C. I. O. to seek a basis of settlement and accord to avoid the disastrous effects of a civil war in labor ranks."

"All our invitations for such a meeting were spurned or ignored. The C. I. O. persisted in its folly. It became bolder. It dropped its disguise and began an open campaign to rip and tear the organized labor movement asunder; it declared war on the American Federation of Labor and set out to wreck the house of labor."

"Today, a new chapter was written in the long struggle. The executive council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the convention recommended that the convention authorize it to revoke the charters of the C. I. O. unions and expel them from the federation. This procedure is in accordance with our constitution and laws."

"There is no room in this country for two hostile labor organizations. The strength of labor is in unity. When labor is divided, it cannot accomplish its fundamental objective of improving the economic and social conditions of the workers. When labor fights itself, it cannot fight for the workers."

"Thus the time is at hand when the American public and the organized workers of America will have to choose between the American Federation of Labor and the C. I. O."

"We do not want the American people to say, 'A plague on both your houses.' That was the apt quotation used by the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, in describing public reaction to the recent abortive and disastrous strike waged by the C. I. O. against the independent steel industry."

"That cause has never been pronounced against the American Federation of Labor. It never will be. Because the American Federation of Labor, guided throughout its entire history by the rule of reason, is founded upon the same principles of freedom and democracy as the republic of the United States, and its policies are determined by the great mass of American workers."

"The C. I. O. has no conventions. Its members have no voice in determining its policies. It is governed from the top down. It is ruled by edict. It represents dictatorship in labor."

"The American Federation of Labor upholds the American form of government. It respects private property," Green continued. "It seeks a relationship between labor and management beneficial to both. It has proven its responsibility. It respects contracts. It condemns sitdown strikers. It does not resort to strikes until all peaceful methods have failed, and then only after a majority of the workers affected vote to strike. It resists subversive forces. It has been and remains the strongest bulwark in the nation against the invasion of communism, fascism, or any other foreign 'ism.'"

"The American Federation of Labor is not a political organization. Its officers have no personal political ambitions. It has steadfastly maintained a non-partisan political policy. It supports candidates who are friends of labor and opposes those who are against labor's program, irrespective of party."

"The C. I. O. has served notice of its intention to form an independent labor party."

"Its leader has smilingly listened to himself being hailed by supporters at a public gathering as the next President of the United States. It is being used and its members are being used as a nucleus for a political organization designed to bring about that result."

"Amid loud applause, Green assailed Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical union, for signing a C. I. O. charter for Pacific coast lumbermen. Although Howard's union is in good standing with the A. F. of L., he is C. I. O. secretary."

"The federation delayed seating Howard as a delegate because of a protest by the Carpenters' union."

"The tall printers' chief sat in a box at the convention hall. Near the end of his hour-long speech, Green proposed that Congress 'strengthen' the neutrality laws to promote 'that feeling of security, which we all should enjoy in a land devoted to the principles and policies of peace.'"

"He also proposed a boycott on Japanese goods if Japan did not stop its 'uncivilized, inhuman' tactics in China."

"The convention applauded when Dr. T. Z. Koo, secretary of the World Student Christian Federation, asked for a labor boycott on Japanese goods."

"You hold the key to the situation," he said. "China never would win a decisive military victory over Japan, he added, but could prolong the war long enough to drain Japan's treasury, with the help of labor boycotts."

UNIONS ARE THE MAIN FACTOR IN WAGES AND HOUR FIGHT DENVER A. F. L. MEET IS TOLD

DENVER, Colo.—Indisputable figures as to the value of trade unionism in increasing wages and reducing hours were presented by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to the annual convention of the Federation in session here.

The figures revealed that in the short period of six months during the present year trade unions won from reluctant employers increases in pay totaling more than twice the amount that employers had granted in the preceding two years.

With regard to the work week the Council reported that the drive of long hour employers has been materially checked by the unions with the result that the average hours have been reduced to 40 1/2 per week, which was described as "a gain of one-half hour's leisure."

"Records of wages in the first half of 1937," the Council's report said, "are striking evidence that workers must depend on union organization to increase their income."

"So far-reaching has been the effect of the organizing drive this year that average hourly earnings in all recorded industries rose from 59 cents in December, 1936, to 64 cents in June, 1937, according to figures calculated from Labor Department records."

"This is an average gain for all workers of 5 cents an hour or more than \$2.00 per week. In the previous two years, hourly earnings rose only 2 1/2 cents—from 56 1/2 cents in December, 1934, to 59 cents in December, 1936."

"Thus workers won for themselves in six months of union organization twice as great a gain as private industry had given them in two years."

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE I. T. U. MEETING AT LOUISVILLE WRITTEN ABOUT, MRS. R. F. WHITE, CHARLOTTE

The 33rd annual convention of the Woman's International Auxiliary to the I. T. U. was held in Louisville, Kentucky, Kentucky Hotel, September 11-17. There were nearly fifty delegates present, from as many different locals and a host of visitors representing many other locals. Delegates were called Saturday 11th at two o'clock for a "Get-together." The meeting was informal and unofficial—delegates turned in their credentials, introduced themselves and were asked to tell something of their local.

The regular session was held Monday morning and called to order by Mrs. F. J. Woeke, president of Louisville Auxiliary No. 12. She gave a few words of welcome and presented the gavel to International President, Mrs. Grace M. Loucks, who has served since 1929. Other International officers present were: Mrs. T. M. Weatherly, 1st Vice-President, Oklahoma City; Mrs. R. J. Lowther, Secretary-Treasurer since 1912, Duluth, Minn., and Mrs. F. M. Chilson, member of the "Home" Board of Trustees, was also present from Oakland, Calif.

The session lasted each morning from 8:30 to 1 o'clock, through Friday, with one afternoon session on Thursday.

Guest speakers included Mr. I. M. Ornburn, Secretary of the Union Label Department, A. F. of L.; Mrs. Charles P. Howard, Mr. F. J. Woeke, Chairman of I. T. U. convention and president of Louisville Local No. 10; Mr. Allen, from Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co., Secretary of Local No. 185.

Many questions of importance to all Auxiliaries were discussed and settled. Many to be sent to referendum at the proper time. Splendid reports were heard from officers, deputy organizers and delegates. Label work is indeed going forward with more and more women demanding the label on all that they buy. The W. I. A. is growing by leaps and bounds, new auxiliaries being formed regularly. It was reported that the sale of the Auxiliary Christmas Stamps (the only one bearing the union label) trebled since last year—proceeds going to the "Home Fund."

The Home for Auxiliary members was again discussed pro and con. Some are unfavorable, but a very large majority are heartily in favor of the Auxiliary Home and the fund continues to grow.

The new International officers were installed with a beautiful ceremony. As the guide escorted Mrs. Loucks forward "My Michigan" was played on the piano, "My Old Kentucky Home," was played as others came forward and were installed by Mrs. Loucks. Many beautiful gifts were presented to Mrs. Loucks, Mrs. Lowther and other officers. The Thanks Committee presented. Mrs. Woeke with a beautiful silver tray

At no other time since depression, except the first four months of NRA, have such large gains been made.

"Union organization has also been effective in shortening work hours this year by half an hour per week. There has been a tendency during recovery from depression, for employers to lengthen hours as production increased."

"Particularly striking was the increase in hours which followed the termination of NRA, when in 6 months two hours were added to the average work week, in industry generally, raising it from 37 1/2 to 39 1/2 hours."

"Until the organizing drive this spring, employers continued to lengthen the work week so that by January, 1937, the average was 41 hours."

"This increase was checked by union action in the first half year, and by June, 1937, hours were reduced to 40 1/2 per week, a gain of one-half hour's leisure. This contrasts sharply with last year when one hour was added to the work week during the same period."

"These figures show clearly, however, that even the 40-hour week is not yet won in industry generally. Since the average week is 40 1/2 hours, probably more than half the wage and small salaried workers in the United States still work over 40 hours a week. Only by strong organization can we prevent further increases and work toward a universal work week of 40 hours and less."

Last Saturday afternoon The Journal came into possession of a copy of "AN ACT" being presented to "Big Business" and as many "little suckers" as will bite, asking contributions, large, small or what have you, to sponsor "An Act" headed "Legislative Program" (of what and whom?) which the grafters intend to mop up on from textile manufacturers and others. A similar proposition caught many suckers about four years ago, when a gentleman from Florida made a similar endeavor. There is nothing in the act other than a few impossible clauses that should cause the manufacturers to stand and deliver. The act that was proposed some years ago was never even offered to the Legislature for consideration, and the gentlemen now at work on the present racket are evidently short of funds, and picked what seemed to them a propitious time to sell the manufacturers a law which will never be enacted in North Carolina.

Read and weigh the following piece de resistance in racketeering:

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

All labor unions operating in this State must be incorporated in this State and render quarter-annual financial statements to the Corporation Commission prepared by certified public accountants and each statement shall be published in some newspaper of general circulation in the County in which the union maintains its headquarters.

All officers and organizers of unions shall be citizens of the United States and residents of this State at least one year prior to their appointment.

The responsibility of a union man in any contract or agreement should be equal to the responsibility assumed by the employer.

That an arbitration board of three members, one representing labor, one representing industry and one representing public interests shall be appointed, which board shall be empowered to hear all questions of dispute before strikes can be called. They shall have power to subpoena all witnesses and records. No strikes can be called or plants shut down until permitted by this board. Sympathy strikes not permitted.

That it shall be a felony to coerce, intimidate or interfere with the constitutional rights of any citizen. That it shall be a felony to seize, hold, destroy or damage the property of another for the purpose of enforcing arbitrary demands upon any employer.

No employee shall be forced to join or pay dues to a union against his will. All employees should be permitted to vote by secret ballot before strike.

Either employers or employees organizations shall have the right to petition the Arbitration Board for a properly supervised election of employees to determine whether it is the will of a majority of employees to strike before strike can be called.

It shall be illegal to picket within 600 feet of an industry and 50 feet from a highway, road or street.

SUPREME COURT NOT IN DANGER WITH BLACK ON THE BENCH, SAYS THIS LABOR WRITER

No one doubts the pro-labor attitude of Supreme Court Justice Black determined by the fact that tremendous technological changes in industry naturally calls for a more liberal interpretation of a word or two in our Constitution.

Perhaps this is the reason the newspapers have been doing their best to discredit Justice Black with their readers. Certainly, no one could argue that the newspapers have not overdone their propaganda nose-pulling before the Radio speech of Justice Black. Certainly, there is no excuse for the papers issuing headlines after his speech about religious freedom and racial prejudice, and still keeping it up as this article is written three days later. No one objects to editorial propaganda, as that is a reflection of opinion rather than news. But certainly, news should be founded on happenings of the day. With wars in Europe, Asia, strikes in Charlotte affecting thousands of our population, surely our writing brains can find more of the news that may affect each one of us any day, personally and possibly physically.

Certainly we must have freedom of the press, regardless of anything else. But it certainly is in order to ask for more news and less propaganda. And in the case of Justice Black, perhaps it might be permissible to say that the newspapers have shown an almost persecution mania in picking unfavorable headlines, especially after his Radio address to the people.

The Supreme Court is in no further danger of being packed. I do not think the A. F. of L. traditional conservative policy would continue to ask for a more liberal court than we now have, after the latest decisions. Sam Gompers went fast slowly, and the A. F. of L. arrived because of that policy. Good buildings are not built overnight. Foundations are necessary. And foundations are more necessary for local unions, than they are for buildings, if they are to exist for any length of time.

The other day, the writer was amazed to find that newspapers had had their delivery boys created individual merchants so that certain liabilities pertaining to accidents, etc., would not come under the expense of newspapers; they also are dead against child labor laws nationally, probably for like reasons, expense. Call a newspaper, ask for delivery each day, and you will get your paper. But you are not dealing with the paper, you have dealt with a merchant, although you may not even see him for a week. You might as well state any salesman in a store on commission is a merchant.

And these are the papers plying up the Liberal Justice Black unfit for office.

—WM. S. GREENE.

QUITE SO

Speaking of old families, said the aristocrat of the party, one of my ancestors was present at the signing of

the Magna Charta. And one of mine, said little Ike, was present at the signing of the Ten Commandments.

Bricklayers---Attention

Open Meeting Friday, Oct. 8, 7:30 P. M.

THIS MEETING CONCERNS YOUR JOB, AND IS BY BRICKLAYERS LOCAL NO. 9

Building Trades Council Hall, 113 1-2 S. College St.