

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Vol. VII.—No. 28

YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1937

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER \$2.00 Per Year

FILIBUSTER STILL ON IN CONGRESS, WITH CONFUSION INCREASING; MAY BREAK PRECEDENT ON WAGE-HOUR

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Administration leaders sadly watched another day of the short special session slip into the past with no more accomplished than the continuation of a blustering Senate filibuster.

Confusion was obviously increasing. Proponents of immediate legislation to help business were growing more restless with each hour's delay. Other legislators bursting with thoughts and emotions were watching their chance to get the floor.

So, Democratic leaders began a pressure drive to get the administration's program ready for consideration. Speaker Bankhead announced at a press conference that "if necessary" he would break precedent and sign a petition to extricate the wage-hour bill from the desk drawer in which it was locked last summer by the House rules committee.

Secretary Wallace appeared before the Senate agriculture committee and urged a compromise between the camps which favor compulsory and voluntary control of crop production.

He suggested, instead, a "middle of the road" course.

Meanwhile, the House subcommittee on taxes agreed to "smooth out" the capital gains and losses tax, which has been the target of a persistent attack both in and out of Congress. Chairman Vinson said this would be done in a way that would help business without an "unseemly loss in revenue."

The farm bill and the wage-hour bill are items one and two on the program sent to Congress by the President for the special session. He urged a revision of the tax schedules but implied that other legislative matter should precede such action.

Over the bitter opposition of southern members, the wage-hour bill was approved last August by the Senate, and reported out by the House labor committee only to run into a cul-de-sac in the rules committee.

Glove Workers Remain With The A. F. of L.

A furious drive by a few individuals in the International Glove Workers' Union of America, resulting in a slight majority of votes cast in a referendum in which not all members participated for the CIO, was decisively rescinded at a recent convention of eight midwest locals, held in Milwaukee. Of the original 1,300 members, 1,200 are reported as still members of the organization, which voted to keep the A. F. of L. charter. The convention elected Thomas Durian, of Milwaukee, as president, and Anton White, of Wewauke, Illinois, as secretary-treasurer; also seven vice-presidents, including Frank Rosenthal, Milwaukee; Agnes Nestor, Chicago; George Paitl, Menominee, Mich.; Nellie Bosley, Minneapolis; Frank Resyck, Marquette; Elmer Merckel and Harriet Tauscher, Milwaukee. National headquarters have been established in Kewanee, Ill., home city of the new secretary-treasurer. It was also decided to hold the 1938 convention in Marinette.

C. I. O. FACTION IS FADING OUT

Secretary White succeeds James Kennedy, New York, who headed the move to fuse the old-fashioned A. F. of L. glove workers' union with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, one of the CIO group. Kennedy recently set up headquarters in the Amalgamated offices in New York, but his followers are said to be few and constantly getting fewer, as members of this honored union continue to express their preference freely and understandingly, for continued affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

20 Agreements Signed in Elberton Atlanta District

(Southern Labor News Bureau) ELBERTON, Ga., Nov. 15th.—Following the victory won by the granite

Call Is Issued For Secretaries' Meeting Of N. C. Bricklayers

November 17, 1937.

Dear Sir and Brother: I am calling a meeting of the secretaries of all subordinate unions in North Carolina to be held in the O. Henry Hotel, Greensboro, N. C., on Sunday, November 21, 1937.

The meeting is being called for the following reasons:

To define the jurisdiction boundaries of the subordinate unions.

To devise a plan of campaign for fully organizing the State.

To determine ways and means of combatting and preventing the setting of ridiculously low wage scales for the men of our crafts on State PWA projects.

To consider the advisability of organizing a permanent State Organization for carrying out the above objectives, and for initiating and advancing any other progressive ideas for improving the standards of our crafts in North Carolina.

It is imperative, for the good of our Organization in the State of North Carolina that you make a special effort to be present at this meeting. Please be present and oblige.

Yours fraternally,
J. T. BRISCOE,
International Representative, B. M. & P. I. U. of America.

and quarry workers three weeks ago, which resulted in a closed shop agreement and increased pay, 20 additional agreements have been signed in the Elberton-Atlanta district, almost completely enlisting all sheds and quarries in the district into the two unions—granite cutters and quarry workers.

The effect of the sweeping victory has been felt in other industries in the territory, it is reported, and many agreements are pending in these industries now, negotiations being carried on by organizers of the American Federation of Labor.

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EDISON CO.'S LABOR BOARD EDICT WILL BE FOUGHT BY A. F. OF L. CONTRACT IS TO BE DEFENDED

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board ordered the Consolidated Edison Company of New York and its six subsidiaries to break their agreements with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Charging that the companies had imposed the A. F. of L. union on the 30,000 employees and had discriminated against the United Radio and Electrical Workers of America, an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization, the Board ordered the companies to abrogate their agreement with the Electrical Workers Brotherhood, which has exclusive bargaining rights for the employees under the Edison contracts, and to notify the employees accordingly.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who had just placed before President Roosevelt the resolution adopted by the recent Denver convention of the Federation assailing the National Labor Relations Board, in commenting on the action of the Labor Board in the Edison Company case, said:

"I consider that the decision outrages the provisions of the Wagner Act. Nothing in the Act confers upon the Board the right to invalidate a contract. I think it not only an outrage, but it outrages the provisions of the Act itself."

Dan W. Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, denounced the Board's action as "biased, bigoted, illegal and dictatorial."

He said the decision destroyed "with the wave of a lead pencil a legal contract entered into in good faith by 30,000 employees formed in an A. F.

of L. union and a utility company," adding:

"That contract is in effect today. We are obliged to defend that contract on principle with every ounce of moral and financial strength that we possess, and we shall do so."

"The power to abrogate a contract is not vested in the Board by the National Labor Relations Act. Neither is Congress empowered to invalidate contracts, and, therefore, cannot delegate such power to a subsidiary creature, namely, a board."

In a telegram to Floyd Carlisle, chairman of the Board of the Edison Company in New York City, Mr. Tracy declared that his union would expect the company to stand by its agreement.

Mr. Tracy received the following telegram from Mr. Carlisle:

"I have your telegram of this date. These companies made contracts in good faith with your organization and its local unions representing about 30 or 40 thousand employees. We expect to live up to those contracts unless and until the courts hold them to be invalid. The companies will take appropriate steps to obtain a judicial review of what we believe to be the board's unfounded decision. Meanwhile we shall expect to proceed in all respects under the contracts and to go ahead with the arbitration arranged for the fair determination of questions arising under the contracts."

Congress Convenes In Extra Session; Tax Reforms Suggested By President In Message—Farm and Wage Bills Are To Be Placed Before Industries

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—President Roosevelt suggested to the newly-convened Congress yesterday that some of the tax burdens on business should be lightened, but he presented his Capitol Hill leaders with a vexatious problem by omitting to ask for immediate action on the recommendation.

Endeavoring to carry out his wishes for "early" legislation on such subjects as crop control and wage-hour regulation, they encountered an insistent demand in both houses that quick steps be taken to help business out of its present difficulties.

Whether the demands would reach such proportions as actually to delay the President's immediate program remained to be seen.

The Chief Executive's recommendations went to Congress in a special message shortly after it met in response to his call for the special session, a call which went out before the current industrial recession began.

Aware that many members were disposed to measure the value of prospective legislation in terms of assistance to business the president presented his proposals—crop control, the wage-hour bill, government reorganization and regional planning—measures which would give such assistance.

He acknowledged the industrial decline, spoke especially of "lightening inequitable burdens on the enterprise of small businessmen and referred to the crop control and wage-hour bills as measures which would maintain and stabilize purchasing power. Government reorganization and regional planning he called "essential tools for the whole task."

"For the sake of the nation I hope for your early action," he said, in conclusion.

While public comment on the message generally was guided by the party affiliations of the commentator, there was obviously much disappointment that the President had not asked for tax revision at once.

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A. F. L. GAINING IN ALCOA PLANT, ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA; LADIES' AUXILIARY IS NOW ACTIVE

MARYVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 15th.—Members of the A. F. of L. Union here, which is working on an agreement with the Aluminum Co. of America, Alcoa Plant, are greatly encouraged because of the large numbers of men coming back into the A. F. of L. union.

Steering committees have been working hard since appointment of these committees representing the three shifts several days ago. In addition to the work being done by these steering committees, a ladies' auxiliary has been organized and the wives of the workers are now rendering great aid in work for the local A. F. of L. Union.

Carl K. Greene, representative of the A. F. of L. and assigned to the aluminum industry, is in charge of the local office for the federation and is doing excellent work. Clay McKenzie, editor of the Knoxville Labor News, is one of the really strong factors in the A. F. of L. fight in Maryville, his home city. For the past several days James F. Barrett, of the Atlanta office of the American Federation of Labor, has been assisting the local leaders in carrying the fight here.

Both the CIO and a company union are contesting the A. F. of L.'s right to represent the workers of Alcoa. That the A. F. of L. will soon clear the community of all such influences as represented by the CIO is already conceded by all, while the threat of the company union is not considered of any great importance.

All but two plants of the Aluminum Company of America are now in the A. F. of L. column, and it is believed these two will soon come into the fold.

GRANITE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES GET 20 PER CENT PAY INCREASE IN GEORGIA UNDER THE A. F. OF L.

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 15th.—W. B. Nixon, international representative of the Operating Engineers, Atlanta District, reports hundred per cent in Local No. 926. In Local No. 329 an increase in membership during past three months of one of 30 per cent in membership has been made.

Employees in the Berkeley Granite Corporation have obtained a 20 per cent increase in pay since joining the Atlanta Local, Mr. Nixon's report shows. His organization embarks hoisting, portable and shovel men. Reports show that the organization is growing in rapid manner throughout the Southern District. Representative Nixon's headquarters are maintained at 358 Hurt Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

Biloxi, Miss., Nov. 15th. To some five hundred and fifty youngsters in 40 or 50 towns along the Gulf of Mexico, a nickel means more than an ice cream cone or a bottle of pop. It is the symbol of tedious work starting at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning at a long table piled with cold, wet and slippery shrimp. In almost every picking and heading shed a nickel is the pay for a "bucket" of shrimp meat or of headed shrimp.

In Biloxi, Mississippi, there is a billboard reading, "The little shrimp nickel is a big factor in the progress of Biloxi. . . ." This is true of many communities, but to Biloxi which processes eight million cans of shrimp annually, it has a special significance. Four years ago, a union came into being in Biloxi, long used as a horrible example of bad labor and sanitary conditions, and led a strike supported by police and townspeople. Now pickers get a cent per pound for shrimp meat, and hour workers receive 25 to 35 cents. They start the day at 4:30 instead of 1 or 2 a.m. and work in quite clean plants. Children under 14 years are seldom, if ever, employed, babies are not brought into the sheds, and housing is measurably improved.

This is Biloxi, where the union has established a closed shop. Farther westward, in the new shrimp frontier, organization has not yet come to win even these benefits for workers. Louisiana and Texas are now the center of exploitation for shrimp-working children.

George L. Googe Makes Comment On Labor Situation

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Nov. 15th.—W. A. ("Zeke") Witt, president of Chattanooga Building Trades Council, and a member of Local 226, Painters, will be in charge of organizing activities of the American Federation of Labor in the Chattanooga district.

This announcement was made Wednesday by George L. Googe, southern representative in charge of the A. F. of L., when he made a brief visit during which he met with the building trades council. Mr. Googe said that the appointment would be confirmed by President Green within a few days.

Mr. Witt was indorsed for the position by the Chattanooga Central Labor Union last Monday evening without a dissenting vote, and the indorsement was concurred in by the building trades.

In his talk Wednesday evening, Mr. Googe told the craftsmen that although he was as desirous for peace as anyone, it was his opinion that present negotiations in Washington will never be settled unless the controversy was definitely and rightfully adjusted for all time, and that "crackpot" unionism was eliminated entirely.

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BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY WORKERS

of Charlotte are requested to get in touch with organizer Albert Beck at Room 702 Mayfair Hotel.

A drive to organize is on foot to assist all bakers to organize and get Union signed contracts with your employers.

SHEET METAL WORKERS

NOTICE—LOCAL NO. 366

Holds its regular meeting every Friday night at Building Trades hall 113 1/2 So. College St. Your presence is requested to attend this meeting of All Sheet Metal Workers.

M. B. EUDY, Secretary, Local No. 366.

BUILDING LABORERS AND HOD CARRIERS INT. UNION

will meet at Good Samaritan Hall, Caldwell and Boundary Street, Wed. night, Nov. 24th, at 7:30 Subject: "Why We Unite."

Alfred Beck will address meeting.

We are asking you to assist yourself in organizing as we want to get all building laborers and hod carriers into the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers and Common Laborers' Union of America. For further information get in touch with

ALBERT BECK, A. F. L. Organizer, Hotel Mayfair.

TO ALL BARBERS AND BEAUTICIANS IN CHARLOTTE

Being as there is not a Union Shop in Charlotte we are asking all barbers to start a drive for an organization so that the 25,000 Union Workers in this territory can know where to get shaved by a union barber and for women folks to get a Union Beautician to marcel their hair.

Mr. Lloyd, Organizer for Barbers will be in Charlotte in the near future. Organizer Al. Beck will assist with your problems. Let's go, Barbers, for a Union town of barbers and stop this scabbing on hair cuts and shaves.

BRICKLAYERS

All bricklayers who are unemployed get in touch with organizer Albert Beck at once. I need union men to fill the jobs. Have jobs for union bricklayers out of town.

The Bricklayers Union No. 9 Charlotte meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 409 West 7th St.

The charter will close on Nov. 25. All Bricklayers should get a union card. The Bricklayers International is putting on a drive in this State to organize the bricklayers and Plasterers and Tile Setters and all Trowel Trades. Get your card and let us build up a strong Bricklayers Union.

PETE TOFFOLI, Secretary.

ALBERT BECK, President.

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