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ATLANTA FEDERATION OF TRADES THROWS ITS POWERFUL SUPPORT IN TEAMSTERS FIGHT AGAINST BRINSON

ATLANTA, Ga., May 29.—The powerful Atlanta Federation of Trades formally threw its support to the cause of striking truck drivers of Wilmington, N. C., last Wednesday night when the following resolution adopted: "Whereas, on October 30, 1938, R. L. Brinson of High Point, N. C., president of the Southern Oil Transportation company, forced the members of Local No. 391 Teamsters and Chauffeurs on a lock-out, and since that time the said Brinson has defied the National Labor Relations Board and all constituted authority, and in addition thereto has used underhand methods of every description in his efforts to break the spirit and morale of these union men, and "Whereas, this same Brinson is the head of the Atlantic States Motor Lines operating between Atlanta and Baltimore and other eastern points, and when drivers on the trucks of the Atlantic States Motor Lines decided recently to leave Brinson's company union and join Local Union 391, Teamsters and Chauffeurs, the company officials fired every one of these men who had joined the legitimate labor union, two-thirds of the drivers having been initiated into Local No. 391, and "Whereas, the Labor Movement throughout America is being called upon for moral and financial support of the Wilmington Truck drivers to the end that they may emerge victorious in resisting the effort of Brinson and his associates to smash their union, therefore

"Be It Resolved, That the Atlanta Federation of Trades in regular meeting assembled and in accordance with this Federation's time-honored policy of supporting trades unionists in their struggles everywhere, pledge the support of Atlanta labor to our brothers in Wilmington and to those employed by the Atlantic States Motor Lines in their every effort to organize and advance their interests. It is further "Resolved, That the president of the Atlanta Federation of Trades is hereby empowered and instructed to appoint a committee to confer with shippers of cartage freight from Atlanta to withhold their business from the Atlantic States Motor Lines and to Horton Motor Lines, its affiliate, until the managements of these companies recognize the rights of their employees to organize, and then deal with such organization, and we further. "Resolved, That the Atlanta Federation of Trades will now extend, and as long as the members of 391 may need it, such financial aid as is customarily given in such cases." J. T. Odum, business agent for Local 450, presented the case of the Wilmington men and that of the drivers on the Atlantic States Motor Lines to the Federation meeting, and made strong plea for immediate support. Others appearing in support of the resolution, which was unanimously adopted, were F. B. Bussell, business agent for Local 728, W. H. McCollum, R. A. Smith and B. Warr. A check was ordered sent immediately to the Wilmington Local Union.

Facing the Facts

With PHILIP PEARL

This column is something new for us, new for this paper and new in the business of columning. President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Ickes and lots of other people have it in for the columnists. Their complaints are sometimes justified. It seems to us the columnists are victims of high pressure salesmanship. Their business is highly competitive. They are always trying to beat the other fellow. All they have for material is a smattering of fact, a strong dose of rumor and a lot of highly seasoned opinion. By the time they cook these ingredients together, the finished dish is made to appear as though it were all fact. To a certain extent this may result in misleading the public, no matter how well-intentioned the particular columnist may be. And that is why some of our leading citizens object. Well, we're in a more fortunate position than our fellow columnists. We're not selling this column. We're giving it away free to anyone who wants to use it. And, furthermore, we will not hesitate to label fact as fact, rumor as rumor and opinion as opinion. We don't have to pose as an oracle of wisdom and we don't want to, because we're not. But we do learn a little about a lot of things that are of interest to the millions of workers who make up the American labor movement—items that do not make headline news, significances that may escape those not on the inside, background material that clarifies the news and adds light to it. This is called in newspaper parlance "the dope," or inside stuff. We're going to let you in on it. This column will be written in the interests of the American Federation of Labor. Emphatically this does not mean that it will be used as an avenue of propaganda, except when the facts themselves can be considered propaganda. For instance we may say: "The door to President Green's office on the seventh floor of the American Federation of Labor Building in Washington is always open. Visitors waiting in the anteroom to see him can usually hear every word being said next door. Nothing secret can go on there. "The door to John L. Lewis's office is sealed and sound-proofed. The windows are made of bullet-proof glass." Those are facts. C. I. O. sympathizers may regard them as propaganda. But they can't deny their truth. Just one more bit of introductory explanation, and we'll get down to business. It is not our purpose here to vent venom and viciousness. We can hate just as strongly as anyone else, but we're afraid if we keep on hating all the time and at the top of our lungs it will spoil our disposition. It's our hunch that the constant stream of denunciation and abuse that emanates from headquarters of the C. I. O. has already soured the public's disposition toward that outfit. We're going to try to be good-natured and retain our sense of humor even if it hurts.

It was revealed at this affair that the American Federation of Labor is taking steps to revive the Pan-American Federation of Labor. The first step was a meeting of the executive council of the P.-A. F. of L., composed of President Green, Morones, Vice-President Matthew Wolf and Santiago Iglesias, Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico. The council directed President Green to make a preliminary survey of the status of the labor movements in South American and Central American countries. Speakers at the dinner told a shocking story of what is going on in these countries today. The Nazis are colonizing Brazil and the Fascists are worming their way into the Argentine. Meanwhile Communist influence over the Government of Mexico is growing apace. And the labor movements in this and other countries to the south are veering further and further to the left. What can be done about these dangerous trends? Morones said a revitalized Pan-American Federation of Labor could be of inestimable value in teaching the benefits of democracy in government and in labor. The two dozen American labor leaders at the dinner appeared to agree with him. President Tracy, of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, pointed out that workers can be taught in South America and Central America to buy goods only from countries where a free labor movement exists. This, he said, would retard the spread of Nazi, Fascist and Communist propaganda and promote trade with the United States, thus strengthening this country's good-neighbor policy. Mr. Tracy declared Secretary of State Hull would like to see the Pan American Federation of Labor, re-established on a firm footing and he should know because they were fellow-delegates to the Inter-American Conference at Lima, Peru.

SOUTHERN GOVERNORS DID NOT DENOUNCE THE FAIR LABOR STANDARD ACT; BUT TOOK A SHOT AT ITS ADMINISTRATORS

Appearance of American Federation of Labor representatives before the meeting last week of Southern governors kept the chief executives from drafting a scathing denunciation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, it was reported to the Trades and Labor Council last night by President L. G. Loring. Accompanying George L. Goode, A. F. of L. Southern representative, Mr. Loring and others attended the closed hearing before five of Dixie's chief executives who, according to previous reports, had gathered here to condemn the law which regulates wages and hours in interstate commerce. Instead of the denunciation, however, the governors issued a statement criticizing the administrators of the act (no names were mentioned) and suggested that Congress investigate the men who guide the destinies of the legislation. "TO PERVERT JUSTICE" "It is the inescapable conclusion that it is the purpose of the present personnel (of the administrators) to pervert the purpose of this law from the accomplishment of social justice," said part of the governors' press release. Mr. Loring reported to the Council last night that labor's representatives were given a hearing before the chief executives drafted their opinion. According to Mr. Loring, it was because of the facts presented by union interests that the state officials modified their criticism. Labor's representatives included Mr. Goode, Mr. Loring, E. H. Williams, Shreveport, president of the

Louisiana Federation of Labor; and Holt Ross, Regional representative of the Common Laborers. SAID MR. GOOGE Said Mr. Googe when he saw the governor's recommendation: "The governors conference gave representatives of Southern labor sympathetic and courteous hearings and apparently from their press release gave consideration in their actions to the interests of Southern labor. "The position of Southern labor is quite emphatically opposed to geographical differences in wage rates. Wage rates should never be set because of sectional districts. "KEEP THEM UP" "Wages of necessity should be based on the highest possible basis consistent with the preservation of a fair and reasonable profit system to the investor. Social justice compels minimum wage standards necessarily sufficient to sustain a decent standard of living for all wage earners in all sections of the United States." Part of the statement by the chief executives contended that wage differentials should be established to favor employers of Southern Districts. It is such differentials as these that the American Federation of Labor is opposed. When Mr. Loring had completed his report last night, Polk Byrd, president of the Electrical Workers Union, made the motion that the Council commend formally the A. F. of L. officials who had foresight to attend the conference.—Memphis Labor Review.

I QUESTION

BY WM. S. GREENE

ECONOMY? The writer of this column made up his mind to talk about unions in this column exclusively, when he began to write same. I am not straying from this path when I mention the so-called Government economy. Union labor is aided tremendously by WPA. It takes a great many men out of the competitive field, where unemployment is still a bugaboo, thus helping the man who is still in the wide open market. We had many Senators, etc., yelling for economy, and the cutting down of Federal expenditures. Strange as it may seem, I was with them, as long as it still provided for care of the unfortunate, who might otherwise go hungry in this land of ours, where we are cutting down the supply of food-stuffs to be raised, artificially. But, I differ from the present Senators, in that they have gone over the requests of the New Deal themselves, spending more than our President asked, of course because they are thinking about re-election. When you hear about budget balancing from certain Senators in the future, remember their actions in this Congress. If a business builds a building, such as a building is capitalized, and not considered an expense. But because the government builds the building, then it is written off, as an expense of that moment. I would like to see a real accounting statement, showing what has actually been spent on improvements, at a fair value rather than actual expenditure, with all water removed, if there is any. It has always been my experience that the U. S. Government were extremely careful about the manner of expenditures, and never forgot to find someone who had thought he had gyped the same government. If there has been much of that in expenditures, I am sure the long, long hand of Uncle Sam, will some day catch up with it. And economy doesn't mean to starve. Hungry people don't produce as much wealth, as those who have enough food to give them strength. That's good economy.

MORE? The skilled worker, be he machinist, bookkeeper, musician, bricklayer, government worker, plumber or any other craft must at all times do his best to get better and better on his life work. A school teacher in Charlotte, with no pension, a mere pittance of a salary for their required skill, must go to summer school at his or her own expense, to improve themselves. Off hand I do not know whether the Social Security legislation helps the teacher in North Carolina, but that is beside the point. What I want to bring out, is that nothing should stand in the way of the worker doing his best to improve his knowledge, even though it hurts. Make your local meetings a place to talk over better ways of doing what ever work you are doing. I once knew a very fine engineer, who was so avid for more knowledge in his life work, that he always read engineering magazines during his lunch hour. While this is carrying things too far, still, this is what I want to bring out. Improve, improve, and improve more.

COMPARATIVE? See if you can get the connection to what follows: We have two kinds of fish in our back lot fish pond. One is the ordinary gold-fish, and other fish are growing the worker caught as minnows up in the mountains a few summers ago, one of which looked like a sunfish, another a perch, and still others bass. If you throw a crumb into the pond, the mountain fish get there first. If you throw a lot of crumbs in at once the mountain fish get most of the feed. It is only when the mountain fish are full up, that the gold fish are as a rule regulated by the same principle. Sometimes, it is possible a job goes non-union because of gold-fish speed being the gear of the union, rather than mountain lightning like darts of native fish. And it does not pay the gold fish to run to the water for help. The crumbs are all come in for their share. Union jobs gone. By the way this story is true and not by Aesop.

Pa. Unionists Attack Action Solons Regarding 'Sit-Downs'

HARRISBURG, Pa., May 30.—A bill setting up sharply-defined limits within which employees and labor groups can carry on union activity in Pennsylvania was passed Monday by the Legislature. Sit-down strikes would be outlawed as "an unfair labor practice" and "an illegal act." The measure, making extensive revisions in the State labor relations act passed during the preceding Democratic administration, was sent to Republican Governor Arthur H. James for his signature. Employers are given the right to petition the State labor board for a collective bargaining election, under the measure. The check-off of union dues—a clause contained in many labor contracts—is prohibited unless authorized by a secret, majority vote of the employees and written individual authorization from each employee. "The State labor act now is really a criminal code," protested James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylv-

ania Federation of Labor, (A. F. of L.). "The new bill just about nullifies the labor relations act. Certainly there was no justification for these sweeping changes." Patrick T. Fagan, a district president of the United Mine Workers (C. I. O.) and a member of the State board that administers the labor act, declared: "The bill destroys every vestige of advantage that has been made by the worker in this state. Labor would be better off if the entire (labor relations) act were repealed." But Senator Weldon Heyburn, chairman of the Senate labor committee, asserted that "this measure is a long step toward recovery. Employers should have the same breaks as employees." Spokesmen for industry contended at hearings that the old act drawn up along lines of the national labor relations act during the Democratic administration of former Governor George H. Earle, was "one-sided."

N. C. Brewers-Distributors In Favor Law Enforcement Says Their State Director

RALEIGH, N. C.—"Speedy co-operation with law enforcement authorities will be undertaken by the Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributing Committee," Col. Edgar H. Bain, the Committee's State Director, said today. Organization of the statewide unit of malt beverage wholesalers and shipping brewers was completed recently in Charlotte, when a "clean up or close up" policy was adopted toward the small minority of licensed retail beer outlets in which conditions are permitted which are objectionable both to the industry and the public. Col. Bain, former State Senator, one-time Mayor of Goldsboro, and a World War veteran with two decorations, will direct this new self-regulatory movement, whose aims and purposes have been lauded by high State officials headed by Governor Hoey.

While firm in the expressions of his intentions, toward those retailers whose business conduct is subject to censure, Col. Bain made it clear that the vast majority of outlets surveyed are conducted reputable. He said, in part: "Our purpose is to co-operate wholeheartedly with the law enforcement agencies to the end that there may be wholly effective self-regulation within the State's \$15,000,000 beer industry. "We propose to go even beyond this, by embarking on a policy of cleaning up or taking proper action to close up those scattered offenders who use their legal beer retail licenses as a masquerade for breaking the law." J. P. Price, Greensboro distributor, was elected chairman of the organization's Executive Committee, which consists of six distributing and six representatives of breweries whose products are sold in North Carolina.

D.C. Carpenters Vote Washington Strike For Monday, June 12

WASHINGTON, D. C.—J. T. Oakley, secretary of the Carpenters District Council, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced that a strike of approximately 2,000 carpenters engaged in construction of Federal, municipal and private buildings in the District of Co-

lumbia will begin on June 12. The strike announcement followed negotiations extending over three months with the Master Builders Association for a work day of seven hours at \$13 instead of the present eight hour day at \$12. The District Council originally voted to strike on May 15, but the walkout was postponed pending an investigation by international officers of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Lewis Named To Nat'l Mediation Bd. By Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Roosevelt sent to the Senate the nomination of David J. Lewis, former member of the House of Representatives, to be a member of the National

Mediation Board, which administers the Railway Labor Act. When confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Lewis will succeed William Leiserson, who was appointed to the National Labor Relations Board to take the place of Donald Wakefield Smith, whose re-appointment was opposed by the American Federation of Labor. Patronize Journal Advertisers

To My Child By Theresa Yvonne Barrie You're just a little tot to me You're tiny, cute, and sweet— Your face is round and fat There are dimples in each cheek. When you laugh and play, Your joy's imparted to me; But when you fall and begin to cry Between us, we would start a sea! Some day you'll grow-up And be a worthwhile man Then, I, your mother, shall let You take my hand! For though you're just a little tot You mean the world to me, And even after you've grown-up My heart will still love thee.

OUT IN THE FIELDS "I have told you of the Spaniard who always put on his spectacles when about to eat cherries, that they might look better and more tempting. In like manner I make the most of my enjoyments; and though I do not cast my cares away, I pack them in as little compass as I can, and carry them as conveniently as I can, and never let them annoy others."—Robert Southey, English poet (1774-1843).] The little cares that fretted me, I lost them yesterday Among the fields above the sea, Among the winds at play, Among the lowing of the herds, The rustling of the trees, Among the singing of the birds, The humming of the bees. The fooling fears of what might be, I cast them all away Among the clover scented grass, Among the new mown hay; Among the hushing of the corn Where the drowsy poppies nod, Where ill thoughts die and good are born, Out in the fields with God. —Charles M. Berkheimer.

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