

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

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939

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ATTY.-GEN. MURPHY REJECTS A.F.L. CONTENTION THAT LABOR GROUPS ARE NOT UNDER ANTITRUST LAWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Attorney General Frank Murphy yesterday rejected the American Federation of Labor's contention that unions were exempt from the anti-trust laws, and declined to interfere with the present anti-trust inquiry into the building industry.

In a letter to President William Green of the A. F. of L., who had protested against indictment of unions on a "frank statement" of policy, the Attorney General said that the Supreme Court had ruled in several decisions that the anti-trust laws applied to the activities of labor organizations and their members.

"In the Chicago milk case now pending in the Supreme Court," the letter added, "your general counsel, Mr. Joseph Padway, conceded this to be true and frankly asked the Supreme Court to overrule its former holdings.

"In the enforcement of criminal statutes it is the practice of the department to follow the construction placed on them by the Supreme Court. In doing so in this instance, the anti-trust division has followed the usual practice, and I would not be justified in interfering with that course."

Murphy told Green, however, that he was "very glad to have the benefit of your views," and would be pleased to discuss the matter further with

him or receive any written statement which the A. F. L. chief believed "might be helpful to the department."

Since the nation-wide building inquiry was begun in October, indictments have been returned in five cities, and in four of these, labor unions or members have been charged with violating the Sherman anti-trust act.

The first indictment was returned in Washington October 19, against a teamsters' union and five officers. Subsequently, union officials were indicted in Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Cleveland.

Green wrote the Attorney General asking if a statement of views of Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general in charge of anti-trust division, represented department policy.

If so, Green said, it was "a grave perversion of the law" and repeated an A. F. L. contention that the Clayton act served to "completely exempt" labor unions from anti-trust prosecutions.

Arnold had stated that the department recognized labor's rights but contended that unions were liable to prosecution if they engaged in restraints of commerce not concerned with legitimate objectives such as wages, hours, safety, health, undue speeding up, or the right of collective bargaining.

Charlotte Stores Set Yuletide Hours, Starting Dec. 14 and 18—Laws That Apply To Merchants Summarized

Member firms of the Charlotte Merchants Association will begin Dec. 14 or 18 to remain open until later hours daily to accommodate the expected late rush of pre-Christmas shopping, according to an announcement by V. P. Rousseau, secretary.

The schedule of longer shopping hours was given by him, as follows:

Variety stores, Dec. 14-16, both inclusive, open until 7:30 P. M.

All stores, Dec. 18-23, both inclusive, open until 8:30 P. M.

Until those starting dates for the longer daily hours, all stores will continue to operate on regular schedules, it was explained.

Retail stores employing more than eight persons are subject to the North Carolina labor laws, but Federal labor laws do not apply to the establishments, except as concerning whole-

sale business, the secretary explained.

Provisions of the North Carolina laws applicable to working hours for retail employees were summarized by Mr. Rousseau, as follows:

Female employees over eighteen years of age are permitted to work ten hours daily—60 hours per week—for the week immediately preceding Christmas; that is, from Dec. 18 to Dec. 24, both inclusive, and two periods of one week each during the year for the purpose of taking inventory. At all other times, the hours of such employees are limited to nine hours a day or 48 hours a week.

All male clerks in mercantile establishments are exempt from the provisions of the law and their hours of work are unrestricted. Male clerks are those who devote 60 per cent of their time to the sale of merchandise, it was pointed out.

PRESIDENT STALLS APPOINTS COMMITTEES FOR CENTRAL LABOR UNION FOR 1939-1940

The following committees have been appointed by President Henry A. Stalls, to serve Central Labor Union the ensuing year, and while not complete, it is asked that members will clip the list and keep it as a matter of record. Each chairman has been furnished with a list for each member. Keep your slip and be sure that the call of the chairman is complied with.

CENTRAL LABOR UNION COMMITTEES 1939-1940

Executive—H. A. Stalls, W. M. Witter, Wm. Greene, J. M. Bradburn, D. L. Funderburke.

AUDITING—C. G. Campbell, E. M. Morgan, J. H. Scoggins.

EDUCATIONAL & LABEL—J. A. Moore, S. F. Blackwelder, Wm. S. Greene.

SOCIAL SECURITY—(Special Committee) J. F. Gallant, T. B. Cline, A. R. Cathey.

LEGISLATIVE—J. M. Bradburn, D. L. Funderburke, L. R. McEliece.

HOUSING AUTHORITY—(Special Committee) L. R. McEliece, H. L. Kiser, T. L. Conder.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY—H. A. Stalls, W. M. Witter, W. S. Greene.

INVESTIGATING—L. R. McEliece, W. B. Pope, R. E. Deese.

LAWS—W. M. Witter, F. G. Campbell, E. M. Morgan.

BUILDING—J. A. Moore, L. R. McEliece, H. M. Sykes.

ORGANIZATION—T. L. Conder, H. L. Kiser, F. G. Campbell, H. L. McCrorie, H. P. Walker.

RELIEF AND GRIEVANCE—H. P. Walker, C. E. McGinnis, A. R. Cathey, H. L. Kiser, J. A. Moore.

CHAPLAIN—Ernest Morgan.

TRUSTEES—(Elective) S. F. Blackwelder, E. M. Morgan, J. H. Scoggins.

DELEGATE A. F. L.—H. L. Kiser.

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES STATE FEDERATION—J. A. Moore, F. G. Campbell; Alternate, D. L. Funderburke.

OFFICERS—H. A. Stalls, President; W. M. Witter, Vice-President; Wm. S. Greene, Secretary-Treasurer; C. E. McGinnis, Sergeant-at-Arms.

GOOD WILL VISITING COMMITTEE—W. S. Campbell, H. L. Kiser, J. T. Matthews.

CREDENTIALS—C. E. McGinnis, J. M. Butler, J. T. Matthews.

Facing the Facts

With PHILIP PEARL

Is the political color scheme of the C. I. O. Red or just merely Pink? Let's take a look.

First we will turn the magnifying glass on John Brophy. Is Mr. Brophy a Communist? He denies it. But when John L. Lewis inaugurated an alleged Red-purge in the C. I. O. a month ago, Mr. Brophy headed the list of purges. He was demoted from National Director of the C. I. O. to Director of local industrial unions. Just what did this mean? Nothing. For only a couple of weeks later Mr. Brophy was sent by the C. I. O. to New York State body. And Mr. Brophy's address to the convention was reported in the New York Times as follows:

"Earlier in the day John Brophy advised against any efforts to discriminate against Communists in the C. I. O."

Second of the purges was Harry Bridges. He was demoted by Lewis from the job of West Coast Director of the C. I. O. and his sphere restricted henceforth to the State of California. But the C. I. O. has scarcely any members on the West Coast except in California. So what does that purge mean? Is Mr. Bridges a Communist? He denies it.

Is Joe Curran, head of the C. I. O.'s National Maritime Union, a Communist? He denies it. But he can't deny the fact that the Communist Party controls and dominates his union. Mr. Curran was not disturbed in the purge.

Is Michael Quill, head of the C. I. O.'s Transport Workers Union, a Communist? He denies it. But Mr. Quill refused to denounce the Hitler-Stalin pact. And for that reason the American Labor Party, political arm of the C. I. O. in New York City, refused to endorse Mr. Quill for reelection to the city council. Mr. Quill was defeated. But Mr. Quill was not disturbed in the Lewis "purge."

RIGHT IN HEADQUARTERS

We could go on listing high C. I. O. officials, whose political color-scheme is questionable, beyond the space limitations of this column, but now we want to take a trip backstairs into C. I. O. headquarters and see what goes on there right under Mr. Lewis' nose.

The C. I. O.'s dictator's closest advisers are Lee Pressman, his counsel, and Dan DeCaux, editor of the C. I. O. publications. Both have been branded as fellow-travelers in numerous recent articles but have not taken the trouble to affirm or deny the accusation. There is more concrete evidence along the same lines. Some weeks ago Mr. Louis Stark, veteran labor reporter for the New York Times, published a story to the effect that Sidney Hillman and Phil Murray, both C. I. O. vice-presidents, were enraged at Pressman and DeCaux. Mr. Stark said Hillman and Murray accused Pressman and DeCaux of editing out references to Communism from official C. I. O. statements. The inference was that these two C. I. O. leaders suspected their subordinates of trying to shield Communism by subterfuge from C. I. O. criticism.

That would seem to look bad for Messrs. Pressman and DeCaux. But was anything ever done about them? Were they purged? They are still operating at the same old stand and, for all we know, playing the same old game.

On the other hand, the attitude taken by Messrs. Hillman and Murray would seem to look well for them. After all, if they opposed the alleged pro-Communist censorship practiced by Pressman and DeCaux, then that would mean they opposed Communism. Maybe. The facts are that Hillman and Murray had ample opportunities to denounce Communism at the C. I. O. convention but both were mum on the subject.

MUM'S THE WORD

Why is the C. I. O. so touchy on the subject of Communism? If that or-

CAN LABOR GET TOGETHER?

BY CHARLES STELZLE

Organized Labor in this country is today stronger numerically than at any time in its history, the combined membership of the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. alone numbering about 8,000,000. But with this growth have naturally come new problems, both in industry, and in the labor movement itself, the solution of which requires statesmanship of a high order. These recently created problems will become the increasing complex, in part, to modern methods of production and distribution, the exchange of commodities between different countries, improved standards of living, and new forms of organization.

There is no patent method or formula which can guide us surely and accurately in their solution. But of this we may be sure—whatever the method that may be applied, it will require the co-operation of all the various groups concerned. Industry, Labor and the Public. If any one of these groups fails to function fairly and adequately, the entire plan will go limping along, thus halting the progress of all concerned. And, naturally, there must be unity in the program of each of these representative groups.

The failure of Labor in this respect is generally admitted. Everybody, from the President of the United States down to the humblest worker whose job is imperilled by Labor's controversy, is asking the question: "Why can't Labor get together?" It is not our purpose just now to answer this question. The fact is, Labor itself knows full well why there are divisions in its ranks. But—and here's the question which should be asked the critics—why pick on Labor because it can't agree at once on what should be done? There are other groups in this country which have long been at sword's points. Why haven't they gotten together?

For example, why don't the churches get together? Most of the various denominations have a common purpose and a fairly common program. But Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and other major religious bodies in this country have

not only been separated from each other but divided among themselves for scores of years—some of them for nearly a century.

Why don't the various political parties which insist that they are deeply concerned about the social and economic welfare of the whole people agree even in their party ranks upon a common program and actively put it across? Why should the whole world be torn to pieces just now because of the fear of war between nations whose statesmen loudly profess their interest to be solely in the welfare of humanity as a whole?

And no matter who should be the spokesman for these or any other group, the whole truth would scarcely be told. Why expect Labor to publicly confess its faults and take its chances on getting a square deal? This is no apology for Labor in the present situation. But Labor is no different from any other group trying to work out its own problems in its own way.

In the last analysis, getting together is largely a question of leadership. Whether it be in the Church, politics, international relations, or labor, it usually depends on some one man. Anyway, there's where it starts. As far as labor is concerned just now—there's a great opportunity for some one man in every community or local Labor body or national organization to step up boldly and make the fight for unity, even though he himself may take a pretty good licking—and from his own crowd.

UNION BARBER SHOPS IN CHARLOTTE DISPLAYING LABEL

The following barber shops in Charlotte are 100 per cent. Union men are asked to keep these shops in mind when services in their line are needed:

- Collier, 506 S. Tryon
- Mosses, 527 W. Trade
- Court Arcade, 529 E. Trade
- Mingus, 323 E. Trade
- City, 219 W. Trade
- Broadway, 108 S. Church
- North Tryon, 315 N. Tryon
- Johnson Bldg., 214 S. Tryon
- Toccis, 1025 N. Davidson St.
- Thomas', 1030 N. Pegram

Father Coughlin Calls For Revision Of Labor Laws Asks Moral Law

DETROIT, Dec. 4.—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin yesterday urged in a broadcast speech that existing labor legislation be subjected to an immediate revision in which a code of unfair practices for labor would be written.

"The time has come to perfect existing labor legislation," the Royal Oak (Mich.) priest said. "We must save all that has been gained for labor. We must protect labor in its every right—the right to organize, to bargain collectively, to strike."

"But we must also draft new legislation," he asserted. "For the time has come to write upon the statute books of the United States a code of unfair practices for labor paralleling the code we have already written for industry."

Commenting on settlement of the prolonged Chrysler corporation dis-

pute in which an estimated 150,000 men were idle, Coughlin said "happy as I am to see the industrial warfare temporarily ended, I can find no victory for either Chrysler or the workingman."

"Once more I reiterate, he declared, "that until the principles of moral law are applied to this field of economics which we call capital and labor, there will be no lasting or just peace in industry."

DON'TS Safety Is Watchword For a Merry Christmas

- Here are a few "don'ts" for Christmas, recommended by safety authorities:
1. Don't give small children toys involving alcohol, kerosene or gasoline engines. They may tip over and set the house on fire.
 2. Don't permit small children to run electrical toys without the supervision of an adult.
 3. Don't permit small children to use toy movie projectors without using safety film which burns slowly. Ordinary film burns explosively and gives off smoke and fumes which may cause death if inhaled.
 4. Don't use candles or light extra fires without being extremely careful, especially in regard to candles on trees.
 5. Don't wear inflammable costumes, especially Santa Claus beards, without fireproofing them.
 6. Don't use inflammable ornaments and evergreen decorations.

Superstitious Villagers Fear Year of Bad Luck If Candles Die on Tree

LONDON.—Early Christmas traditions still endure among English Yule celebrants.

No Christmas tree is considered complete in rural areas unless it is bedecked with little candles of different colors. Many people count it an ill sign if once lit the candles go out or are snuffed out before they have burned to their ends. In old days the candle was made such a size that it would burn from the time it was lit until midnight. If it went out before that, evil was portended to the family for the coming year.

The Yule log, which many hold should be lit by a brandy preserved from the previous year's stock, should be blown into a blaze by the maids, but these must have clean faces and hands or the log will not light easily. In the north of England it was once customary to let the servants have free drink so long as the log burned.

ARMAND J. DUMAS

Funeral services for Armand J. Dumas, 36, who was found dead Friday afternoon in his home, 530 West Seventh street, were conducted Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home and burial was in Elmwood cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. Ben Harrup, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Dumas was a member. Surviving are the widow; three children, Amelia Dumas; Sarah Dumas and Edward Dumas; and four sisters, Mrs. L. L. Rowe, of New York State; Mrs. E. J. Blanchard, of Malone, N. Y.; Mrs. Joseph Blair, of Holyoke, Mass., and Mrs. Eva Connors, of Lake Placid, N. Y. Pallbearers at the services Monday were R. D. Kimbrel, F. B. Hooper, R. B. Williamson, J. W. Campbell, M. G. Dellinger, and J. Leek Houston. Honorary pallbearers were G. R. Rivers, Paul E. Dellinger, M. T. Skeen, J. P. Yeat, S. W. Puckett, Roscoe Bogrias, J. F. Page, H. L. Kiser, Frank Barr, Jim Parrish, W. I. Green, W. A. Neal, W. M. Witter, E. T. Beatty, Dewey Farris and F. G. Campbell.

George Ade, author, was once asked if he had not often been mistaken for a minister of the Gospel, because of his homely dress. "No," he retorted, "but I have been treated like one, when they made me wait six weeks for my pay."



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