

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1940

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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HAM AND EGG, TOWNSEND, C. I. O. WILD PENSION PLANS EXPOSED BY FEDERATION ORGANIZER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Rattle-brained pension schemes which promise the moon to gullible aged persons were exposed and assailed by the American Federation of Labor.

President William Green sent to affiliated organizations copies of a new pamphlet called "A Rainbow Pot of Gold, or Dependable Income For Old Age," which blasts the fallacies of the Townsend, "Ham and Eggs" and CIO pension schemes and presents the honest, workable program of the American Federation of Labor.

Summed up, the A. F. of L. program provides for the following objectives:

1. "Jobs first with good wages and working conditions.

2. "Insurance next to provide income and a reasonable protection against huge expenses during periods of unemployment and illness for the worker and his dependents.

3. "Income in old age which is in reasonable proportion to the whole program of social protection.

"That is a plan," the A. F. of L. pamphlet declares, "organized labor can honestly support and for which our millions of workers can reasonably work. That is a program worth paying for, one which keeps a fair relationship between individual and social efforts."

In a preface to the pamphlet, Mr. Green charged:

"Persons baiting you with Townsend plans, 'ham and eggs,' or soft promises of \$60 a month when you are fifty-five or sixty, if single, and \$90 if married, never tell what the plan will cost, who will pay for it, or prove that you will really get it."

This pamphlet proceeds to do. It shows that the CIO pension scheme of \$60 a month to single persons and \$90 a month to married couples would cost the Government over six and a third billion dollars a year if paid only to persons over sixty. Yet in no year to date in the nation's history has the entire total of Federal tax receipts aggregated six and a quarter billion dollars. In other words this impossible scheme would take all the money the Government raises by taxes and leave nothing for the operation of the Government.

But that is only the beginning of the story. For the proportion of old people in the population is steadily increasing and it is estimated in the pamphlet that 14 billion dollars a year would be the bill for such pensions by 1980.

Who is to pay for such pensions? The Government? "Let no worker deceive himself that those huge sums could be raised without new taxes which he would have to pay," the pamphlet says. "He would have to sacrifice during his productive years to provide more income for each retired person than he has for the members of his own family."

"There is no magic in the payment of pensions which permits the Government to supply some people with incomes without taking money for those incomes from other people. The care of the aged is an obligation which we have always had and which we expect to meet, but the amount of such pension of the A. F. of L. unanimously care must be reasonably related to our total income and the other demands made upon it."

The pamphlet made the same devastating analysis of the Townsend analysis of the "Townsend and 'ham and eggs' plan.

In an accompanying letter, Mr. Green pointed out that the 1939 convention went on record against too great extravagance in one phase of the social security program at the expense of tax increases for workers and failure to provide for other pressing needs such as more adequate unemployment compensation, disability coverage and health insurance. The convention decided that the next step in improving old age insurance should be to widen coverage in the social security program.

"The American Federation of Labor is working to get the coverage of the law extended," Mr. Green said in his letter. "Later as the whole program of social insurance is brought in a well-rounded fashion to more adequate levels, it may be possible to improve the benefits of old age insurance."

"In the meantime, I believe we should serve our membership by telling them honestly that they will gain more from a well-rounded development of the social security program than by hoping for the enactment of legislation providing large pensions for everyone over some specified age."

LIBERALISM AND LABOR MUST JOIN HANDS AND FIGHT OR MUST QUIT

Have the forces of Liberalism and of Labor, prospered as they have and grown strong in the seven years of the New Deal, become lazy and inept at a critical moment?

It would appear so as one scans the news and comment emanating from Washington. There, to all intent and purposes, guided by malignant foes, the ebb tide against Liberalism and Labor has set in. Labor, lax and tardy in matters political, today sees the forces of reaction out-shouting, out-voting and out-manoeuvring them.

Smart, election-year politics is being played in Washington and keen-eared politicians are hearing almost everything except the challenging voice of Labor. This is evidenced by two votes, recently taken in the House of Representatives, which bode no good for the American workers.

The first of these was the passage of the tricky Walter-Logan bill, a back handed attack upon the entire social and economic program of the New Deal. The other, the 233 to 141 vote for taking up and considering amendments to the Wages and Hours law—recorded over the personal plea of President Roosevelt.

The Walter-Logan bill strikes at every Federal agency, including the National Labor Relations Board, Social Security Board, Securities and Exchange Commission, even the Tennessee Valley Authority, in that it gives Federal Courts sweeping power over these and many other agencies of a quasi-judicial nature. Bitter foes of such Governmental boards will, if this bill gets by the Senate, have the very weapon to strike them down through interminable litigation whereas under existing regulations they have met defeat at every angle.

To think that these New Deal agencies are so firmly established as to be impregnable, and cannot be done away with, is sheer folly.

Leading the fight to amend the Wages and Hours law, naturally, is the "gentleman from Georgia," Mr. Gene Cox, hard-bitten, vociferous union-baiter. Hailing from one of many districts in the South where the Negro and poor white citizen is clubbed away from the ballot box with a poll tax, Gene's unafraid. He'll have rich reward from mill and factory barons and powerful corporations if their wishes can be written into law.

These two set-backs point a clear lesson for Labor to learn and use: FIGHT or QUIT. The battle is today and it fights victoriously on the Wagner Act and the Wages and Hours law will be torpedoed.

To quote the Hosiery Worker: "May the guns, or take to the boats."

THE JOURNAL ENTERS ITS TENTH YEAR

The Journal enters its tenth year of continuous publication — an all-time record for any Labor Paper in this section. Under the same editorial management and ownership The Journal has retained the respect and good will of its constituency. It has endeavored to be fair, both to Capital and Labor, yet, at all times espousing the principles of the American Federation of Labor. It has ever put its advertisers to the front, all things being fair and equal, urging labor to patronize and spend its earnings with the concerns making their paper possible. Many locals subscribe for The Journal in groups, and its circulation has grown in recent months, going into the homes of a class spending over \$6,000,000 a year in Charlotte.

The Journal thanks its friends and asks co-operation as it journeys towards its Decennial edition — one year from now.

PRES. N. C. STATE FEDERATION LABOR COMPLIMENTS JOURNAL UPON ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY

Spencer, N. C., May 10, 1940.

Mr. W. M. Witter, 203 South College St. Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Brother Witter:

I was glad to hear from you again and I am glad to give you the short letter of commendation for the Ninth Anniversary issue of the Charlotte Journal.

I think the Charlotte Labor Journal has been and is a real asset to the American Federation of Labor in North Carolina. I know that it has been tried and tested but has stood up for the American Federation of Labor. I am proud of this paper with its fine editorials, and Brother Witter, I think you should be commended for your long and faithful service to the American Federation of Labor. I wish you many more successful years with your paper.

With best wishes to you and family, I remain, Fraternally yours, C. A. Fink, President. N. C. State Federation of Labor.

J. A. MOORE, PRES. CENTRAL BODY CONGRATULATES LABOR JOURNAL UPON ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY

MR. W. M. WITTER, Editor Charlotte Labor Journal, Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

On behalf of the Charlotte Central Labor Union, I extend to you our greetings and congratulate you on your firm stand with the Great American Federation of Labor.

Personally, I believe you have been loyal to our great cause to a financial disadvantage to yourself and family and for this, if for no other reason, we join you in happily celebrating this your ninth anniversary.

Fraternally yours, J. A. MOORE, Pres., Charlotte Central Labor Union.

Henry A. Stalls, Pres. Typo Union Former Journal Business Mgr., Sends Labor Journal Greetings

Mr. W. M. Witter, Editor, The Charlotte Labor Journal

Dear Sir and Brother:

Labor, through the efforts of The Charlotte Labor Journal, has made great strides forward during the past nine years and along with others I extend my most sincere good wishes for the continued progress of The Journal and the labor movement.

It was with a very modest beginning nine years ago that the writer and W. M. Witter, the present editor, began publication of The Charlotte Labor Journal. We had many obstacles to overcome and also became involved in many debates but the good ship has weathered the storm as is attested by the splendid volume of advertising appearing in this issue.

The Labor Journal has conducted its columns on the strictly "up and up," adhering strictly to those principles expounded by the American Federation of Labor by toting the mark and letting its chips fall where they may. In this manner it has always been respected, both by labor people and the general public.

From the start The Labor Journal was destined to have a very important part in the upbuilding of the labor movement in Charlotte and surrounding territory. It has and is serving that purpose, therefore, I know that although uncertainties and misunderstandings may arise, your paper will continue to weather the storms and will sail on into that port, where peace, prosperity and good will prevail among mankind.

I extend to you the good wishes of every member of Charlotte Typographical Union, which, by the way, is the oldest union in Charlotte.

Yours fraternally, HENRY A. STALLS, President Charlotte Typographical Union.

MECKLENBURG INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN CHARLOTTE MAY 19-22

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina will celebrate the 165th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence with a gigantic festival May 19-20.

On May 20, 1775, more than one year before the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, a band of patriots met in the log courthouse at Charlotte, county seat of Mecklenburg county, and signed a document declaring themselves free and independent of the rule of George III, king of England.

The highlight of the celebration this Spring will be an historical pageant, "The Birth of Independence," which will be given on three nights, May 20, 21, 22 in the Memorial Stadium. The climax will come with the coronation of the festival queen at a ball to be held the night of May 21. Also on the program will be Army maneuvers, speeches, parades, concerts, tours, exhibits, a pet show, a horse show, a flower show, street dances and a marble tournament.

Plans for the festival were initiated by the Charlotte Junior Chamber of Commerce. Other civic, patriotic and fraternal organizations are co-operating in staging the event. Approximately 2,500 persons will participate in preparations for the festival and in its presentation. The cast of the pageant, which is being written and directed by John B. Rogers Co., of Postoria, Ohio, will contain 600 or more people.

Charlotte is a city of 100,000 population in the heart of Piedmont Carolina. It is known as the Queen City of the South, and to its citizens as "the hornet's nest." The latter nickname was applied to the village of Charlotte during the American Revolution by Lord Cornwallis, who temporarily made his headquarters there. After a week in the village, a week during which snipers routed several foraging parties of his troops, he left saying, "Let's get out of here; this place is a veritable hornet's nest." The pithet has stuck.

There is much controversy about the existence of any such document as a Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. But the late Dr. Alexander Graham, dean of education in North Carolina during his day always answered doubters with the

question, "Would you deny the existence of the American Declaration of Independence if Dolly Madison hadn't had presence of mind enough to rescue it when Washington was burned in the War of 1817?"

The meeting was held in the log courthouse. While it was in session, a horseman brought the news of the Battle of Lexington. The sacrifices of the patriots aroused sympathy among the Mecklenburgers, and the rout of the British made them bold. A committee of three men was appointed to draft a Declaration of Independence. On this committee were Colonel William Kennon of Salisbury, a lawyer; Dr. Ephraim Brevard, a physician; and the Rev. Hezekiah Balch.

The report of the committee was submitted after midnight. The chairman put the question for its adoption at 2:00 A. M., May 20, and the action of the delegates was unanimous in its favor. At noon, Colonel Polk read the proclamation from the courthouse steps to a gathering of several thousand.

Captain James Jack was deputized to take a copy of the declaration to Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress was prepared to express loyalty to the King and to deny the charge of a desire for independence. It was considered that to take the action on the Mecklenburg Declaration would have been out of place.

All documents about the meeting and the original copy of the declaration itself were destroyed by fire which burned the home of John McKnight Alexander, secretary of the convention at which it was adopted, in 1800. Most historians have expressed skepticism about the declaration, but no true Mecklenburger doubts that it was a great reality as the American Declaration of Independence. The date of its signing, May 20, 1775, is on the flag of the State of North Carolina.

WM. S. GREENE LAUDS JOURNAL ON ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY

W. M. WITTER, CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

Dear Brother:

Happy Birthday to you, The Charlotte Labor Journal, on this your Ninth Anniversary. All of Labor in Charlotte owes W. M. Witter immeasurable gratitude for the hard work the owner of this Journal has put forth to keep the paper going. The American Federation of Labor owes you thanks for a valiant fight to preserve its ranks in the last few years, from "Fifth Column" activities within its own membership. Charlotte owes you a Happy Birthday for the retention of a conservative labor movement within its boundaries. And the Charlotte Central Labor Union owes you nine big hearty Happy Birthdays, as it is due more than anyone else to "Pop" Witter, that that body is as successful today as it is. Keep your chin up. There are a lot of sincere men behind you, and you refforts. Happy birthday.

WM. S. GREENE, Sec., Charlotte Central Labor Union.

Vice-President Campbell Congratulates Labor Journal Upon Its Anniversary

Charlotte, N. C., May 14, 1940.

Mr. W. M. Witter, Editor, Charlotte Labor Journal, Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Would indeed feel insensate should I fail to take this opportunity to congratulate the Charlotte Labor Journal upon its tenth anniversary. A labor paper that has always held true to the dignity, and at the same time expounded the doctrine of the American Federation of Labor, one that's been inalienable throughout the years since that eventful day in Atlantic City in 1935.

The Labor Movement in Charlotte is proud to know that they have a medium whereby, they may voice their message to the public. It has been of an inestimable value to organized labor, and the noble cause to which we all are dedicated, and which will ultimately inure to the everlasting benefit of our social and economic advancement.

With sincere personal regards to you and Mrs. Witter, I am Sincerely and fraternally yours, W. S. CAMPBELL, Vice-President State Federation of Labor.

CONSECRATION
Five barley loaves, little fishes—
My scanty store—
I lay upon the altar of my heart.
Would it were more!
Wilt thou in wondrous condescension
These deign to touch
That meagerness may multiply
And mite be much?
O, Galilean, Hope of all who hunger,
Fill Thou my soul
That I may offer starving, stumbling
children
A loaf that's whole.
—Sister Mary Denrice, R.S.M.
Subscribe For the Journal

The Class Must Go On,
Lonely Student Finds
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. — Richard Andrew, Harvard junior from Pleasantville, N. Y., thought he surely would be excused from a lecture when he turned out to be the only one of the class of 10 present.
Prof. Frank S. Cawley thought differently and proceeded to outline his lecture carefully on the blackboard.
Then he discoursed on the subject for 50 minutes as Andrew sat alone and listened.

Journal Readers Co-operate With Those Who Advertise In It.