

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1940

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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Charlotte Gets State A. F. of L. Convention In 1941

WILL OUR DEFENSE PROGRAM VITALIZE OR SAP OUR NATIONAL ENERGY? ASKS A. F. OF L. MONTHLY SURVEY

Our country is fast swinging into a defense economy. This fact is of prime concern to all of us. Defense production forms but a small part of our whole national output, should use only 7 per cent of our normal peacetime facilities, according to one estimate. Yet defense activities will have right of way over all others in our industries, and, if men are drafted, even in our homes. The energies of our ablest business executives, labor leaders, working men and women, in fact the time and ability of all us will be diverted to building up a great military machine.

Since we have idle man power, idle plant capacity and high productive efficiency we can handle \$5,000,000,000 of defense production yearly without destroying our hard-won labor gains or reducing the national living standard. We can even improve greatly our present national welfare by giving defense jobs to the unemployed, bringing idle plants into activity. But if the defense program is not carefully guided, it can disrupt our economic life, causing booms in some industries and depressions in others, destroy labor standards, leave mills and men stranded after the first years of intense activity are over. National defense can either vitalize or sap our whole national energy, depending on how well we keep balance between defense production and the other 93 per cent of our activity. Since control over defense policies rests in the hands of the President, our future depends to a degree never before known in peacetime on his decisions. To insure balanced planning, representatives of trade unions, farmers' associations, business men's groups must sit on all policy making boards. Only thus can the voice of the people be heard and heeded, democracy be preserved.

In Europe, even before the war, armament production greatly reduced living standards. With our higher productivity, this is not necessary. We can produce a higher income per person than any other country in the world. The chart shows that our per capita income of \$432 compares with \$401 in England, \$345 in Germany, \$321 in Sweden, and \$267 in France. We produced this higher income with a work week 8 hours shorter than that of France and Germany, 11 hours shorter than that of England and Sweden. We are immensely more able to maintain our labor standards. Foreign countries today are making enormous sacrifices. In England, consumer goods production has been sacrificed to armaments. Living costs are up 20 to 25 per cent. Workers' families pay a \$147 tax on \$2000 of income, \$43 on \$1500—incomes which are exempt in this country. In addition, sales taxes of 12 per cent on all necessities except food and 24 per cent on all luxuries such as fur-

niture, cosmetics, must be paid. The workers' living is reduced to the barest essentials. Work hours have been lengthened from 44 or 48 to 60, and in some cases 72 in the warring countries.

These records warn us of the immense disruption to normal life which accompanies an extreme war effort. We in America are not at war; our task is to build our national strength, to prevent such disruptions. To do this we must get the unemployed back to work, raise living standards, see that increasing industrial income flows to wage earners in wage increases.

Man Power—Federation unemployment estimates show that 374,000 went back to work in June. Nearly 50,000 were taken on by defense and related industries, 176,000 by farms. Unemployment is still at high levels, with 9,651,000 out of work in June, 1940; this compares with 10,143,000 in June, 1939.9 Most recent estimates show 2,500,000 likely to be re-employed by June, 1941, due to the defense program; accounting for the probable draft of 1,000,000 men and allowing the normal increase of 500,000 in working population, unemployment will probably decline to about 6,600,000 by June, 1941.

High Profits Ahead.—Government funds will be poured into industry at a rate which makes previous pumping look small indeed. For fiscal 1941, we have a prospective Federal budget of \$13,600,000,000 (of which \$5,000,000,000 is for defense). This compares with \$9,666,000,000 in fiscal 1940 and \$3,848,000,000 in pre-depression 1929. Production and profits will be lifted to high levels. Prospective profits of 400 leading industrial corporations for 1940 amount to \$2,280 million, which almost equals the average of 1916-17, high points of the last war, and approaches the prosperity peak of 1927-29 (average \$2,565 million yearly) and the recovery peak of 1937 (\$2,412 million). Full-year 1940 profits will exceed last year by 23 per cent. First half-year gains over last year are even more striking: Profits of 400 corporations were up 59.9 per cent; earnings were 10.9 per cent on net worth compared to 7 per cent last year. This high percentage earned on net worth equals that of 1937, the post-depression peak.

Corporations have not increased wages as much as their earnings permitted. A larger flow in income to workers is vital. Newly created wealth must lift the living standards of low-income groups. We need the flow of their buying power into non-defense consumer goods industries, to keep these industries growing in a normal way, prevent top-heavy defense development, build up our national well-being. We must also see that adequate machine tools are released to consume industries to allow their expansion.

Aluminum Co. Jobs Almost 100 Pct. A. F. of L.—Men On Nantahala Project Coming Into Union In Large Numbers

FRANKLINTON, N. C., Aug. 10.—A local union of Hod Carriers, Common and Construction Laborers has been organized here, and the charter installed, with Harold Dalrymple as president, Jess Thompson as vice-president, and J. L. Barnard, Jr., recording and financial secretary. Eligible workers employed on the Glenville job of the Aluminum company has joined the local almost one hundred per cent, and employes on the Nantahala job are said to be coming into the local union in gratifying numbers.

The Glenville job is being done by the contracting firm of Morrison-Knudsen Construction company. This job includes a large dam at Glenville and a tunnel.

The Nantahala job, also a dam and tunnel, is being done by the Utah Construction company, and 3200 men are to be employed on both jobs when either get into full action.

When it was announced that the Aluminum Company of America had let these jobs for construction of power plants, the CIO sent a man by the name of Carney, of Baltimore, into this mountain section with a crew of CIO organizers, to see the job up for the CIO. Local men, under leadership of Mr. Barnard, beat the CIO to bat, however. John S. Turner, of the Hod Carriers International came here and assisted Mr. Barnard. Holt Ross, Southern Representative of the International, also came here and did splendid work.

LABOR DAY, 1940, TEAMSTERS ASK BEING PLANNED FOR BEST TYPE ON LARGE SCALE AS DELEGATES

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 10.—When in September to take stock of the America pauses on the first Monday progress that has been made in Labor, the large scale celebrations that are being planned in practically every one of the 815 cities where Central Labor Unions function will be the most impressive message of Labor's advancement ever made in this country. George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor, is experiencing much difficulty in finding Labor Day speakers for the numerous cities calling upon him for speakers.

Hundreds of Central Labor Unions are returning this year to the old time programs including Labor Day parades. America will hear on Labor Day of the astounding progress made by the American Federation of Labor during the past year, and learn that it is now larger by far than ever before.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—Daniel J. Tobin, leader of the Teamsters' Union (AFL) tossed a little fatherly advice on behavior when he called on his organization to send "only the finest type of men" as delegates to the union's September convention here.

Declaring that the teamster's were reputed to have the best conducted conventions with the "best kind of delegates," Tobin wrote in the Teamsters' Journal that Washington was no place for "hoodlums or undesirable characters."

"There is no such thing as 'fixing' anything in the City of Washington," he said. "All policemen are under the supervision of the Federal Government."

ALWAYS "Don't you think there's something brutal about football?" "Yes, the price of the seats."

Typographical Notes of Local No. 338 Taken From the I. T. U. Journal for August, 1940, By H. A. Stalls, Pres.

Scale negotiations were opened in April on wages and hours, but to date only two meetings have been held with the publishers, due to illness of one of the publishers and also because of the fact that the pressmen are negotiating for an agreement. Joe A. Wilson is assisting the local pressmen, and Sloan G. Springfield, I. T. U. representative, is here to assist the local printers in negotiations. A meeting is scheduled for July 19. The piece scale dies January 1, according to an agreement negotiated last year, and Charlotte typographers desire that a good scale of wages with stabilized hours shall replace the present agreement. Representative Springfield was present at the union meeting in July and gave out some valuable data relative to negotiations and other matters. Mr. Springfield and the writer have organized the mailers in Charlotte and a temporary union has been set in motion. Representative E. L. Thayer, who is handling the Raleigh Times strike, also assisted in forming the mailers' union during June. A charter has been applied for and no doubt will be granted by the time this appears.—W. M. Witter, one of the three living charter members of Charlotte union, has been confined to a local hospital several days suffering an attack of asthma, and his many friends hope for a speedy recovery. He is editor and publisher of the Charlotte Labor Journal and has been identified with the labor movement here for more than forty years. Mr. and Mrs. Witter had the misfortune to lose their youngest son, John Q. Witter, 26, who passed away in New York last month. The body was brought back and interred in the family plot at Monroe.—Claude L. Albee, News Linotype operator, city councilman and former mayor pro tem, has returned from more than a year's stay in the veterans' hospital in Columbia, S. C., and is back at work.—The union meetings are well attended and a request for an extension of jurisdiction may be asked of the Executive Council in the near future. Several surrounding towns are seeking information from local officers as to this possibility and if local unions cannot be formed in these smaller towns it might be advisable to tie them on to the Charlotte Union. Representative Springfield is making a survey of the field.—R. W. Fridgen, of the News chapel has taken up residence at the Home for treatment and word from him states that he likes it fine out there and that he is getting along very well. Walter Pope, another Charlotte boy, has been in the Home for three years or more and is also showing signs of improvement.—The local union has endorsed a Richmond resolution in which the Virginians are seeking the 1941 I. T. U. convention—therefore we join in saying—Richmond in 1941! Another resolution was adopted at July meeting call-

ing for the abolishment of the apprentice training school in the G. P. O., and North Carolina senators and representatives are being urged to support measures to this end.

THIS IS WHERE FRESH AIR CAMP WOULD COME IN

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—It took a police emergency call to quell twelve-year-old David Herashkowitz's tantrum over his mother's request that he take a bath.

David really put on a show. Folks from all around his East Side neighborhood came to watch the spectacle of a husky lad standing perilously close to the edge of a third-floor fire escape and shouting to his mother: "If you won't leave me alone, I'll take a jump."

Somebody called the cops. Two patrol cars answered, and out of one stepped Patrolman Edward Stack. David yielded at the sight of the uniform—and took his bath.

FROM HOLLYWOOD! Mother: "I don't think you're taking this marriage of yours seriously." Daughter: "Well, after all, Mother, it's only my first."

THE STOOL PIGEON

This poem is dedicated To stool pigeons far and wide— They may be white on the outside but they're yellow deep inside.

In each department there is one, I'm sure you'll all agree; It certainly is discouraging Each day their face to see.

Whenever we are talking shop That guy is always there, To listen and remember— He sure gets in my hair.

He thinks nobody knows it, And that he's getting by; Each day he tells on someone new And thinks he's very sly.

He'll pat you on the back and say, "We're comrades in the strife." But he's looking for a soft place In which to stick his knife.

If you can say that you have none, And know that it is true, Three cheers for your department, We're handing it to you.

But if this poem applies to you, I'd climb down off that stool, And be a U-N-I-O-N member Instead of a bosses' tool.

—EDITH DANIELS, Des Moines, Iowa.

FINK AGAIN HEADS STATE BODY; FISHER CONTINUES AS SEC.-TREAS.; EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ABOUT SAME; ANOTHER V.-PRESIDENT ADDED

The meeting of the State Federation of Labor at Durham this week proved to be one of the best attended and most constructive conventions held in many years. There was no display of fireworks, but calm deliberation, and a sincere desire to build the labor movement in North Carolina along lines that would not only benefit members of the A. F. of L., but to lift up the workers in the lower strata. Durham as host city gave the convention and its delegates and visitors a hospitable reception, good fellowship, good will and friendship prevailed, and the Durham Central Labor Union, along with its affiliated locals deserve credit for the manner in which they entertained and provided for those in attendance. To the Washington-Duke hotel, under the management of Alton Bland, a vote of thanks should be given, for every courtesy and consideration was extended. So, its good-bye Durham, and all hail to Charlotte, the convention city of 1941. The meeting in the "City of the Bull" was great, and next year this writer and the hosts of labor hopes to be alive to greet you one and all in the Queen City of the South—Charlotte. The editor wishes to thank the convention for the re-indorsement of The Charlotte Labor Journal, which it has carried for ten years, and knowingly has never violated one precept of the American Federation of Labor.

The Charlotte delegation was an active part of the convention; it received consideration as to committee assignments, chairmanships, etc., and can boast of two members on the executive board—first vice-president and a vice-president.

So, now in Charlotte, let's get going for 1941, and be ready to give welcome to one of the most American bodies of all organizations—barring none—the American Federation of Labor.

The Journal is using an AP article, appearing in Thursday morning's Observer, on the closing day of the Convention, which follows:

DURHAM, Aug. 14.—Re-election of C. A. Fink of Salisbury as president of the State Federation of Labor for another one-year term and an address by State Labor Commissioner Forrest Shuford this afternoon brought the 34th annual convention of the State federation to a close here. Fink's re-election over George Kendall of Charlotte, the only other nominee, was declared unanimous by the convention after the first ballot.

Stating that "North Carolina needs a State wage and hour law," Labor Commissioner Shuford congratulated the federation for its unselfish efforts to bring about the passage of such a law.

Charlotte was chosen the 1941 convention city. H. L. Kiser of Charlotte was re-elected first vice-president of the convention by acclamation. H. G. Fisher of Salisbury defeated Earle F. Charles, also of Salisbury, for the office of secretary-treasurer. Fisher's re-election later was declared unanimous by the assembled delegates. As sergeant-at-arms, Broadie Cooke of Durham succeeded John K. Robertson, also of Durham. A. E. Brown of Durham was re-elected federation chaplain.

With the exception of the Raleigh district, all North Carolina districts re-elected their representative vice-presidents as follows: R. W. Ingle, Asheville; W. S. Campbell, Charlotte; W. L. Causey, Greensboro; G. D. Sexton, Winston-Salem; M. F. Johnson, Durham and C. E. Korngay, Wilmington.

K. T. Smith of Raleigh succeeded Joe Powers of Raleigh as vice-president from that city.

The convention voted to add one more vice-president to its list of seven making a total of eight.

PARASITIC INDUSTRIES

By DR. CHARLES STELZLE

"Parasite" is the name usually given to a plant or animal that lives on or in some other organism, from which it derives nourishment. But the name may be applied to certain kinds of organizations which exist only because they attach themselves to other organizations, as a result of which they are given standing or even life itself. Naturally, they themselves do not fail to make a contribution to others, but as a rule they are a distinct detriment—or worse.

Such, for example, is an industry in the community which is not self-supporting. It remains alive only because healthy industries are giving of their life-blood to maintain it. An industry is not self-supporting unless it pays a living wage. Such an industry not only deprives workers of a living while they are employed, but it becomes a charge on the community and on other legitimate industries which in the last analysis are compelled to take care of the derelicts—the cast-offs. Whenever a new business seeks to establish itself in any city, it should be compelled to make a complete statement as to its standards of working conditions and wages paid, and if it comes up to the requirements, it will be worth something for it to be given a clean bill of health.

Every city owes it to those who are trying to be fair to the workers and to the public to protect them from business pirates and parasites, and every new business enterprise that expects to profit by the city's reputation and accumulated values—social, economic, and commercial—should be compelled to give a guarantee that it will not selfishly lower standards or degrade working conditions.

It is absurd for anybody to insist that he has the right to come into a long and well established community and take off the cream, leaving only skimmed milk for those who paid the cost of getting the cream. And yet there are individuals who claim an inherent right to conduct any kind of an enterprise they please, pay what they please, and run their affairs as they please, regardless of what such action may do to the general prosperity of the community.

In the larger industries commissions should be appointed to standardize working conditions for the entire industry, either locally or nationally. Many of these industries are already well organized, but the purpose of the organization is almost entirely defensive—that is to protect members from labor union demands and from unfriendly legislation and similar matters, which have to do purely with their own commercial interests. But such action is mostly negative. It doesn't go far enough.

There should be constructive action which would include human and social relationships, and which may help raise such standards in all other industries. This would benefit industry as a whole as well as all workers. If this were done, there would soon be no room in any community for an industry that declines to pay a living wage or maintain fair standards.

The LABOR JOURNAL SERVING THE A. F. OF L. IN PIEDMONT, NORTH CAROLINA STRIVING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS— AND A FAIR DEAL FOR THE EMPLOYERS

THE MARCH OF LABOR

NO HURRY

First Convict: "Say, Buddy, how long a stretch you got?" Second Convict: "I'm in for life. How about you—when do you get out?" First Convict: "Twenty-five years." Second Convict: "Say, will you mail a letter for me on your way out?"

THE JOURNAL has by far the largest city circulation of any weekly published in Charlotte. Your ad in The Journal will bring results from the workers.