

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

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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GREEN ASSURES ROOSEVELT A. F. OF L. STANDS READY TO NEGOTIATE LABOR PEACE

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 19.—President Roosevelt yesterday called upon labor's leaders "with the interest of the nation at heart" to find a peaceful solution of the problems dividing their followers into opposing camps.

A. F. of L. President William Green sent immediate assurance to the Executive that the American Federation of Labor was willing "anywhere, any time, any place," to discuss negotiation with the Congress of Industrial Organizations now in convention at Atlantic City.

"We as a people today have the common determination to put our country above all else," the President said in a letter to Green read at the A. F. of L. convention here.

There was no indication here that a similar message had been sent to the C. I. O.

Before the President's message was read a resolution was introduced asking the A. F. of L. to favor legislation to outlaw the Communists as a political party.

Emphasizing the need for national unity in any "emergency which might be forced upon us," President Roosevelt said:

"Among the things which labor will contribute, I venture to suggest, is an unselfish, a far sighted and a patriotic effort to bring about a just and an honorable peace within the now divided labor movement."

"Labor leaders with the interest of the nation at heart and the advantage of their followers in mind, can, I am sure, find the way to reach such peace."

When Green finished reading the President's words to the applauding convention whose slow-moving, flexible program could adapt itself if necessary to events in Atlantic City, he announced his reply:

"The committee representing the American Federation of Labor stands ready and willing to meet with a committee representing the C. I. O. for the purpose of negotiating a settlement anywhere, anytime, any place."

Nathan Straus, administrator for the U. S. Housing Authority, predicted to the convention that when the defense ends and this country returns to a peacetime economy perhaps 5,000,000 men would be thrown out of work.

Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer of the Social Security board said methods of protecting social security rights of defense employes and draftees are being studied.

Men going into the military service and civilian defense workers employed or to be employed by the Federal government, Altmeyer said, require immediate attention lest they "lose the insurance rights they now have."

PRESIDENT'S PEACE REQUEST LAID BEFORE A. F. OF L. MEET BY SEC. OF WAR STIMSON; GREEN OFFERS PEACE PLAN

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 19.—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S DESIRE FOR A LABOR PEACE MOVE, TO BEGIN IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WAS COMMUNICATED MONDAY TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION WHICH ALSO WAS INFORMED BY SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON THAT WORKERS WILL HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICES UNDER THE DEFENSE PROGRAM.

A. F. of L. President William Green, deeply skeptical that a labor settlement was brought any closer by John L. Lewis' announced intention of resigning the C. I. O. presidency, told the applauding convention of the President's desire for unity in labor ranks.

Green said: "The President of the United States is willing to help us and assist us and he has asked if committees (A. F. of L. and C. I. O.) can be assembled and put to work, that they meet with him first of all and explore with him the situation at the White House, there to receive his assurance of good will and co-operation."

At the same time Green outlined a settlement plan which he admitted was not new and which he charged—without using his name—that Lewis had already blocked by refusing to let committees from the Congress of Industrial Organizations treat with A. F. of L. representatives.

Urging industrial peace as an absolute need for re-arming America, Secretary Stimson, who flew here to address the convention, stressed the effort needed for the defense program and said:

"Today our production, hopeful as it has been thus far, is as yet far from adequate. Sacrifices will undoubtedly be called for from labor as they will be called for from the other citizens of the republic but such sacrifices I believe will be willingly contributed and not compelled."

A resolution urging the convention to vote its officials the power to drive racketeers and labor exploiters out of A. F. of L. unions was introduced by delegates of the International Ladies Garment Workers union.

Another resolution suggested that A. F. of L. members provide information in co-operation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, against fifth column efforts in America.

LEWIS AGAINST UNITY OF LABOR; BITTERLY ATTACKS WM. GREEN; CLOTHING WORKERS WANT PEACE

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 20.—A tumultuous session of C. I. O.'s annual convention, whipped into a cheering frenzy during a bitter attack by John L. Lewis against William Green and the A. F. of L. leadership, served notice late Tuesday that there would be no immediate peace overtures to the rival labor camp.

In a fighting angry mood, with the cheers of the packed convention hall sometimes drowning out his words, Lewis blasted a proposal by Sidney Hillman's Clothing Workers union for immediate conferences to explore labor peace possibilities.

"It would be a waste of time," he declared, "to raise the hopes of the millions of people in this country by making it appear that there is any possibility of peace."

CENTRAL LABOR UNION IN HIGH GEAR—STATUS OF A. F. OF L. AND C. I. O. CAUSES MUCH "DEBATE"

Minutes of Meeting November, 20 1940:

The meeting was called to order by President Scoggins, and the invocation given by Chaplain Morgan. All delegates present made the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Various roll calls were made as usual. Under reports of committees, a motion passed to give full power to act to a carnival committee to handle the proposed carnival about the first or second week in April. The committee appointed by President Scoggins are Brother Moore, Condor and McEliece, and they were given a vote of confidence.

The S tating Area project is about closed, and next meeting will probably see a full statement of operations given. The Dedication committee gave a proposed date of 11 A. M. on Thanksgiving day (The old one), which was duly accepted by the assembled delegates.

The credentials of Brother H. G. Price of the City Employees local were received with applause and obligated.

Many other committees gave good reports, with organization work still on the upgrade. A new local was reported ready to affiliate with the Central body.

Under reports of locals, the signing of contracts in many of the crafts were given, with negotiations still going on in others. One large contract signed, was some 15 months in negotiations, without a strike in the interim, but covers a large territory, and is favorable both to the employes and the employer, as a result.

RECONCILE WAGE LAW TO UNION AGREEMENTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—The Wage-Hour administration said yesterday that an employer's obligation to pay time and one-half for work in excess of 40 hours a week was not voided by existence of a union contract calling for a longer work week, unless the contract also made other stipulations.

The agreement, the agency said, must provide for an "absolute maximum of 1,000 hours work in any 26-week period or 2,000 hours work in 52 weeks," must be the result of collective bargaining by representatives certified by the Labor Relations board, and must provide for a fixed annual wage or continuous employment for either 52 weeks or 2,000 hours.

Where such an agreement exists, employes may work up to 13 hours a day and 56 hours a week without payment at overtime rates.

Miscellaneous industries showed a gain of 7 per cent in workers, with a decline in wages an hour. The lumber business was second in job increase with 3.7 per cent, but earnings in this trade also declined.

The only manufacturing firms showing a higher wage an hour were structural clay plants, with a 1.5 per cent gain, and cotton mills, with a 1.4 per cent gain.

Reviewing the international situation, the council predicted that "which ever way the Battle of Britain may be decided, the democratic countries of the New World must be prepared to defend the New World against invasion and conquest."

It asserted that the United States "has a responsibility in this crisis, not only for defense, but for leading in the development of machinery for international co-operation and the marketing of agricultural and industrial output in support of democratic ideals. . . . Protection for individual countries in the New World lies in collective action of all in the hemisphere."

The council also called for "every safeguard against transforming our democracy into a dictatorship in order to defeat the machinations of dictators."

The report said the A. F. of L.'s paid up membership was 4,247,443, compared with 4,006,354 a year ago. Among recommendations were these:

Maintenance of living standards and minimum working hours under increased business resulting from defense orders.

A watch by central labor unions against "unjustified price increases or price profiteering."

A study of financial records of profit-making companies by union leaders with the aim of working out measures "whereby their members may receive a just part of the increased income resulting from the greater productivity per man-hour worked."

Revision of the national labor relations act and removal of "this subject from the political arena."

Liberalization of social security laws applicable to old-age assistance, survivors' insurance, unemployment and workmen's compensation, and health insurance and hospitalization.

A "clear-cut separation" between public works and work relief in the defense program.

Custodian Sidney Croft says he is not seeking Postmaster Yountz position, but will take the Civil Service Exam. in case it does become vacant.

Now that the shouting for Roosevelt and the weeping for Willie are about over, the average citizen can turn his thoughts again to business and football.

It would appear that "passing events" municipally prestage a lively municipal campaign in the Friendly City when the "Flowers Bloom in the Spring, Tra-La!"

ROSENBLATT AT A. F. OF L. MEET SAYS PUBLISHERS OPPOSING A THIRD TERM SUFFER "SHOCK"

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 20.—The American Federation of Labor convention today heard a vigorous criticism of American newspapers by a high Democratic party official who charged that publishers opposing President Roosevelt's third term suffered a great "shock."

Sol A. Rosenblatt, general counsel of the Democratic national committee, told the assemblage that too many personalities "made" by the press, radio, and movies "try to strut like Uncle Sam," and added "those who stand upon the principles of free speech and a free press must accept the responsibilities that go with those rights."

The first resolution approved by the convention was one advocating extension of social security coverage to state and local government employes not now covered.

Hemisphere defense came up for the first time when President William Green, responding to an address by Edward A. Jamieson, Canadian fraternal delegate, said:

"I declare that I know it is our purpose that if, for any unforeseen reason or in any unforeseen development, the dictator, the autocrat, the despot, the savage shall attempt to set his boot on Canadian soil, the United States will respond and will join with Canada in resisting any attempt to invade this continent."

Rosenblatt in his address declared, "It has been said that the greatest shock ever experienced by the newspapers of America was to wake up on the morning of November 4, 1936, and discover that they had no influence in the presidential election."

"A great shock overtook them on November 6, 1940, when the great majority of American people gave their suffrage to President Roosevelt and returned him to the White House to continue his inspiring leadership of the nation."

"The newspapers this year were twice as solidly united against him as they were in the campaign of 1936."

"Those publishers who for years have been saying as Louis XIV said about the state, 'The public? We're the public.' are due for a great awakening."

Rosenblatt said freedom of the press "must mean something more than the right of a publisher to express any views he happens to hold on any public question, to refuse to publish the utterances of those who seek to controvert him, or to give over his whole publication to the sole purpose of furthering his individual and class interests."

"Perhaps the day will come when emphasis on the destructive, the sensational, and the self-serving will not be considered the very essence of news. Sooner or later it may become evident to most publishers that nonsense spouted by a man, however prominent in the public eye, is still nonsense."

"What I say is that all of us must support a truly free press. The fact is that with all its faults the American press today is freer than any other in the world."

Rosenblatt said he is "convinced the best guaranty of a free press lies in the public discussion and criticism of the manner and method with which the press has been carrying out its vast responsibilities to the public."

The convention, rocking along with a series of speakers while the various committees met, adjourned for tomorrow's Thanksgiving holiday with scant hope for the elusive thing called labor peace.

BID FOR UNITY MADE BY A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—WILL MEET "ANYWHERE, ANYTIME ANY PLACE" TO HEAL LONG BREACH WITH C. I. O.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 18.—An offer to meet "anywhere, anytime, and any place" with representatives of the C. I. O. to seek unity in the labor movement was extended yesterday by the executive council of the A. F. of L.

The council's stand was given in its report to the 60th annual A. F. of L. convention, which also sharply criticized laws against labor unions, expressed determination to defend democracy, and urged unions to fight racketeering.

The report referred to efforts to iron out differences between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. and, without mentioning John L. Lewis, C. I. O. chieftain, by name, said:

"The responsibility for failure to meet, confer, and endeavor to settle differences, rests fully and absolutely with the leader of the C. I. O. movement."

"The executive council," the report said at another point, "is firmly of the opinion that labor in America can be solidified and united through affiliation with the American Federation of Labor."

On the question of racketeering in the labor movement, the council said "we seek to establish and maintain our unions upon a high moral, ethical, and law-abiding basis."

"We disavow racketeering, gangsterism and disregard for law most emphatically and without reservation," it added.

Saying that the individual unions exercised full control in formulation of policies and election of officers, the report continued:

"However, the executive council urges that the membership of national and international unions select and elect men of character, of known honesty and integrity to official positions, and prevent those with criminal records from either holding official positions or from representing them in any capacity whatsoever."

Turning to antitrust laws, the council said "one of the unpleasant but most necessary tasks facing us is to report fully to organized labor concerning the stubborn, capricious and irresponsible drive against labor and unionism now being conducted by an agency of the Federal government."

"Professor Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general in charge of the antitrust division of the Department of Justice since 1938, has begun to wage the most complete and concentrated legal warfare against labor ever attempted by a government agency in America," the report continued.

Maintenance of living standards and minimum working hours under increased business resulting from defense orders.

A watch by central labor unions against "unjustified price increases or price profiteering."

A study of financial records of profit-making companies by union leaders with the aim of working out measures "whereby their members may receive a just part of the increased income resulting from the greater productivity per man-hour worked."

Revision of the national labor relations act and removal of "this subject from the political arena."

Liberalization of social security

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF A. F. OF L. CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF THE LABOR PRESS IN ITS REPORT

" x x x Generally speaking, the labor press, especially that part of it which has embraced the philosophy of the American Federation of Labor, has rendered most valuable service to the American Federation of Labor and its membership. We trust that our labor publications, loyal supporters of the American Federation of Labor, will be given increased support by the membership of the American Federation of Labor and all their friends in every locality where a bona fide labor paper is published.

The Executive Council expresses its deep appreciation of the loyal support of the labor press and pledges to it the continued assistance of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor and all its constituent organizations.

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.

THAT'S IT Salesman: "Sir, I have something here which will make you popular, make your life happier, and bring you a host of new friends." Prospective Customer: "I'll take a quart."

AS TO LABOR CONVENTION NEWS The Labor Journal goes to press on Thursday A. M., and proceedings of the A. F. of L. Convention at New Orleans can only be covered up to and for the period of Wednesday. The news carried are cuttings taken from AP dispatches, and we hereby give credit for same. Any C.I.O. news published comes from the same source, and credit is hereby given.