

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

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Tenth Year Of Continuous Publication

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

VOL. X—NO. 29

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1940

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## A. F. L. MONTHLY BUSINESS SURVEY ON LABOR AND N. A. T. DEFENSE; MUST PUT SHOULDERS TO WHEEL

America's future depends upon our ability to produce quickly the means for adequate national defense against the revolution that terrorizes Europe. Production is the key to our problem. The whole nation must work together, co-operating without waste of people, time or materials. Whatever minimizes or blocks co-operation, slows down essential production. Whether interference lies in individuals or groups it impedes progress toward national defense when every hour is important. The key to defense lies in the spirit of our people. If there is the will to do, to dare, to endure hardships rather than give up a way of life, to such a spirit all things are possible. But such a spirit is born of freedom and is nourished by confidence of rights maintained and confidence that even handed justice will assure opportunity for progress and higher standards and levels of living.

Naturally union men and women are the nation's great reliance in this time of emergency. We can give to the utmost in our daily work because we know that our rights are protected by union agreements. We can guard against firm columnists. It is for us to put our shoulders to the wheel with renewed vigor in whatever industry we work.

While giving of our best, we also have another responsibility: To preserve the work standards already won in this country, and to bring a better living standard to those now below the danger line for health. Undernourished and underprivileged people are a liability to any nation at any time. In a time of national emergency they are a danger. They are easily persuaded to Communism or other unAmerican philosophies. With rising production and employment, and higher company profits, we have for the first time in eleven years a chance to see that no one shall be undernourished. So let us eliminate danger to national unity from the hungry and those denied opportunity.

### MAINTAIN THE FORTY HOUR WEEK

History shows that production increases when work hours are shortened. The pictograph tells the story. In 1909 the average factory worker worked 53 hours and produced 100 units of product per week; by 1929 the work week had been shortened to 46 hours and production per worker had increased to 173 units; in 1939, the work week averaged 38 hours and weekly production reached 188 units. Labor saving machinery and high speed work, possible only under the short work week, have brought about this change in 30 years. American industry is geared to the 40 hour week. Modern machinery requires great alertness, speed of action; top efficiency cannot be maintained for long periods. Germany, after lengthening hours to increase armament production, was forced to shorten them again.

### NO LABOR SHORTAGE

Industrial production is at all time peak levels. Reliable estimates place October production at 128 by the Federal Reserve Board index, which is above the previous all time peak of 126 in December, 1939. Nevertheless, in September, 8,544,000 were still unemployed according to Federation estimates, and in October about 8,000,000, preliminary estimates. At the end of September, 218,000 workers with skills needed for defense work were registered at employment exchanges.

Now for the first time since 1929 these men and women can be put to work at adequate income and made a constructive part of America's defense program. The task of training and placing them in industry is already underway. To obstruct this great re-employment program by lengthening hours would leave millions of undernourished people a ready prey to fifth column activity. American factories are already at peak production on an average work week of only 39 hours.

### RAISE WAGES

The President of the United States, the Defense Commission and many leading citizens have repeatedly pointed out that adequate living standards are a first line of defense. To bring those who are underfed, ill clad and poorly housed to a decent living level will require industry to pay the largest wage increases possible.

What is an adequate wage today? For the country in general, a bare subsistence budget for a family of four costs \$1,350 a year, or 65 cents an hour for a 40 hour week with 52 weeks' full pay. To keep a family of five in health and efficiency costs \$2,211 a year or \$1.06 an hour for 52 weeks of 40 hours. Very few wage earners today receive enough for the health and efficiency budget, and millions receive between 30 cents and 50 cents per hour.

Wages are already on the up trend; increases have been widespread in 1940. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing are up from 64 cents an hour in September 1939 to 67 cents

in September 1940. In the Cleveland area alone, unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have increased buying power of members by more than \$1,130,000.

### HIGHER PRODUCTION MAKES WAGE INCREASES POSSIBLE

From 1937 to 1939, the factory worker's production per hour rose 11%, but his wage per hour rose only 5%. In key defense industries, as shown in the chart, wage increases have fallen far behind the worker's increased producing power. In the machine tool industry, the wage earner's yearly income rose only 2%, but his yearly production rose 10%. In chemicals, wages were up 5%, production per worker up 17%; in rubber tires, wages rose 9%, production per worker 18%.

The worker today is producing to pay himself a larger wage increase than he has had.

### PROFITS ARE HIGHER

Reports from 350 leading industrial corporations show that profits in the first nine months of 1940 have increased 42% above the same months of 1939. These figures show that on the whole business firms are well able to pay higher wages this year. The table below shows profits of leading companies in several important industries, as reported by the National City Bank.

## OFFICIALS FROM THREE STATE FEDERATIONS OF LABOR TO BE IN CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTE

(This report comes out of Atlanta from the Southern Labor News Bureau.—Ed.)

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Nov. 25—President H. L. Kiser, of the North Carolina State Building and Construction Trades Council, has announced a meeting to be held in the courthouse here at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, December 8. George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor; Al Flynn, president and F. E. Hatchell, secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Federation of Labor; Dewey L. Johnson, president, and Miss Allie B. Mann, secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Federation of Labor, and C. A. Fink, president, and H. G. Fisher, secretary-treasurer, of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, will attend the Charlotte meeting. In addition to these labor officials it is announced that all building trades union members are invited to attend.

Labor officials from the three states, together with Mr. Googe, will remain in Charlotte over Monday, when it planned to hold a joint conference with employers whose businesses are operated in the three state. President Kiser further announces that delegates and visitors will bring their wives to the Sunday meeting in the court house, and a large crowd is expected to attend.

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## A. F. OF L. VOTES ITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POWER TO SUSPEND TWO OR MORE UNIONS UNITING TO CONSPIRE AGAINST F'DATION

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 26.—The American Federation of Labor last night, after a bitter two-hour debate spearheaded by David Dubinsky, voted its executive council power to suspend two or more unions uniting to conspire against the organization.

Salary hikes also were voted—but after a protest—to President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, the former being raised from \$12,000 to \$20,000, and the latter from \$10,000 to \$18,000.

The delegates additionally decided to make the present one cent per capita tax two cents for one year. A one-cent assessment, which Dubinsky charged was created in 1937 as a war chest against the Congress of Industrial Organization, was abolished.

Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers, was defeated in his proposed amendment that any union suspended by the council be allowed to appear with its full voting strength before the conviction.

The protest against the officials' salary increases was made by John B. Burke, president of the International Pulp and Sulphite Workers, who asked that Green's pay be raised only from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and Meany's from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

All salary increases should not be

given to top men, Burke said, suggesting that at the next convention labor organizers be considered for increases.

The report of the committee on law, headed by Dan Tobin of the Teamsters' union, pointed out that Green had received no raise since becoming president in 1924. Meany has held his present office one year.

Dubinsky broke the storm over the convention's hitherto almost idyllic session when Tobin's committee submitted a proposal that:

The executive council be deprived of the right to suspend any single union, but be empowered to suspend two or more unions if they "unite and conspire to create and launch an organization for any purpose dual to the American Federation of Labor."

This report proposed further that such suspended unions be given the right to appeal from the council's action at the next general convention.

Dubinsky said that when his union returned to the A. F. of L., after deserting the C. I. O., President William Green promised that the executive council would be stripped of the power to suspend any union at all.

He quoted Green as saying that "this would mean the power to suspend would be vested only in the constitution."

Nevertheless, Dubinsky said he was willing to agree to the council's power to suspend if the report to be acted upon by the convention contained the explanation that any suspended union when tried by a convention be allowed to make its appeal and use its full voting strength in the verdict.

Then Tobin, also a member of the executive council, said he had disagreed with that body when it drew up the report to strip itself of the power to suspend a single union "guilty of a crime against the A. F. of L."

## Three Labor Board Members Who Quit Job Still Stay On

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The Labor Relations Board officials who resigned when President Roosevelt failed to reappoint Chairman J. Warren Madden continued in their positions today because of an impasse between William M. Leiserson and Edwin S. Smith, the remaining board members.

Those who resigned were: Nathan Witt, secretary of the board whom Leiserson has tried to oust; Thomas I. Emerson, associate general counsel, and Alexander B. Hawes, chief administrative examiner.

One board official described the resignations as declarations of "no confidence" in the board, but expressed the belief that nothing would be done about them pending Senate action on the nomination of Harry A. Millis, Chicago educator and member of the old NRA Labor Board.

Millis may appear before the Senate committee tomorrow. The Senate was expected to approve his appointment with little opposition. The board is supposed to have three members, and approval of Millis would bring it back to full strength.

When the resignations of Witt, Emerson and Hawes came before the board last week, Leiserson favored making them effective immediately, but Smith, with whom Leiserson has disagreed frequently, expressed the view that the board would be inconvenienced by making them effective before the new member took office.

Thus, although both members were agreeable to accepting the resignations, disagreement over an effective date left them tabled.

### NO CENTRAL BODY REPORT

Due to the fact that The Journal goes to press Wednesday this week there is no report of Central Labor Union which meets on Wednesday night.

One of the most courageous acts of the Dies Committee thus far, was to publish the names and positions held by 563 different federal employees known to be members of a certain Communist organization. Some of those named received as much as a ten thousand dollar salary yearly.

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### LASTING VALUE

The successful resistance of the American Federation of Labor to the introduction of Communist purposes and methods in the labor movement was an outstanding patriotic accomplishment. Its lasting value will be recognized more and more as time passes.—John P. Frey.

### STUCK

First Mosquito: "Hooray; here comes a new arrival." Second Mosquito: "Good; let's stick him for the drinks."

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### PITY SERGEANT WHEN HE CALLS THIS ROLL

BALTIMORE, Nov. 26.—There's a workout in store for army sergeants calling the roll among Maryland's first contingent of draftees. Induction as civilian-soldiers to Of the first eight reporting for day, four were: Edward S. Krystynski, Daniew J. Ordakowski, Casimir W. Paakiewicz, and Adam L. Kozlowski.

Language is something extravagant because talk cost so little.

### SKATING AREA DEDICATION

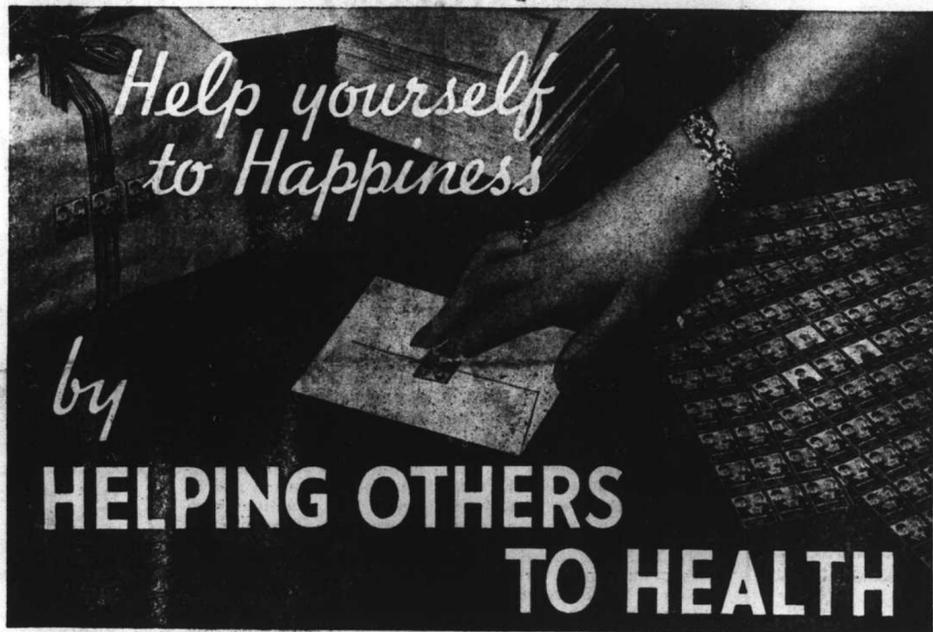
Today at 11 A.M. the skating area at Cordelia Park, sponsored by Charlotte Central Labor Union will be dedicated with fitting ceremonies. J. A. Moore is chairman of the union's committee in general charge of that program. Among the events will be a flag-raising and music by one of the school bands, said Mr. Moore.

The times comes when enough people are free of debt to start a wave of buying.

"Culture is what is left after everything we have learned has been forgotten."—Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam.

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