

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

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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## GOOGE PRESIDES AT MEETING OF FEDERATION HEADS OF THREE STATES—SHAPE PROGRAM FOR CO-OPERATION OF EVERY UNIT

By "JIM" BARRETT  
(Southern Publicity Director A. F. of L.)

Inaugurating a plan of cooperation between State Federations of Labor in the South that promises great benefit in the future, officials of state bodies of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina met here last Saturday and Sunday and adopted a program of action that will have far-reaching effect. Dewey L. Johnson, president of the Georgia Federation of Labor, President Al Flynn, Secretary-Treasurer Fred E. Hatchell and Legislative Chairman Earle R. Britton, of the South Carolina Federation of Labor; President C. A. Fink, First Vice-President H. L. Kiser, Secretary-Treasurer H. G. Fisher, Vice-President Stough Campbell and State Organizer A. E. Brown, of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, attended the meetings.

George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor, presided at the conferences and directed the shaping of the program for cooperative action by the three State Federations of Labor.

Numerous international representatives attended all conferences and contributed largely to the success of the tri-state meeting.

On Sunday afternoon the regular monthly meeting of the North Carolina State Building and Construction Trades Council was held in the county courthouse, attended by delegations from nearly all points in the state. All State Federation of Labor officials, international officers and Southern Representative Googe also attended the meeting of the state building trades.

First action of the visiting State Federation officials was a conference held with the management of Belk's Department Store, at which time negotiations were begun for an agreement that has for its purpose the creation of a plan that would be mutually advantageous to the building trades members in the three states and the Belk stores.

The Federation officials then turned their attention to the matter of state legislation affecting labor in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. It was decided that all three states would offer identical state minimum wage and maximum hour bills. Labor in the three states will also oppose adoption of experience rating for state unemployment compensation.

South Carolina and Georgia will attempt to obtain Workmen's Compensation laws for their states similar to that operating in North Carolina. It was agreed that North Carolina has the best Workmen's Compensation of

any state in the South. All three states agreed to make an effort to get each state to adopt the state fund plan, instead of the present plan which insures through insurance companies.

It was brought out that states having the state fund pay to the injured worker one hundred cents of each dollar paid into the fund, which in states where insurance companies underwrite Workmen's compensation funds the worker gets only one dollar out of every \$1.84 paid into the fund. In other words, the state fund is operated as other state business, while insurance companies and overhead expense eat up 84 cents for each dollar paid to the injured worker, or almost as much as the injured worker gets as compensation for time lost because of injury.

Much discussion was had on many other matters of importance to labor in the three states represented, and action taken that will expedite the work of organization, legislation and all other activities essential in labor's constant forward march.

Reports made at the Sunday afternoon session of the State Building and Construction Trades Council were most encouraging, except that report made of deplorable conditions existing at Fort Bragg. A plan of action was decided upon by the executive board of the State Council in a meeting held Sunday night, at which time Mr. Googe and international representatives assisted the state council board in formulating a plan of action. The January meeting of the State Council will be held in Fayetteville, near Fort Bragg.

The two days may in all earnestness be referred to as marking the passing of another milestone in the American Federation of Labor's onward march in the South.

## NINE MILLION HOMES NEEDED BY POOR—LOW COST BUILDING IMPEDED BY INTEREST RATES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Urgent need for vast extension of low-cost housing construction was stressed in a report by economists and housing experts on the staff of Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney's Monopoly Investigating Committee.

More than 9,000,000 American families with incomes below \$1,500 a year need new homes, the report declared. If these homes were built, the depression would be cured to a "surprising" extent by "getting idle men back to work" and "finding an outlet for idle investment funds," it was found.

The report is a reminder that the national defense program is not the only way to put men, money and machines to work, because this can be done by clearing slums and providing decent homes for the American people.

"The difficulty, however," the report says, "is that under the present set-up the housing industry is geared to provide homes primarily for families earning \$2,000 or more per year.

"We build largely for this limited group because the home-building industry has followed traditional practices and failed to keep up with progressive methods that have enabled other industries to extend their markets to low-income groups. Moreover, many of the raw materials of the building industry are concentrated in a few hands, with a controlled and inflexible pricing system."

It points out that construction costs are highest in some cities where building trades wage rates are lowest, and lowest where labor costs are highest. Other important facts disclosed at the O'Mahoney committee's hearings are cited to explode the idea that "high wages" are the cause of the high cost of housing.

On the other hand, the report explains that high interest rates are a real obstacle to home construction, and that "rental housing for the lower gotiations."

half of the middle income group (\$1,000 to \$2,000) might well be stimulated" by reducing the rate of interest charged on the money invested.

## Fly the FLAG



THE A. F. OF L. STANDS WITH AND FOR THE FLAG

## SCOGGINS UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY CENTRAL LABOR UNION FOR THE VACANT SEAT ON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 11, 1940

The meeting was called to order by President Scoggins, and the pledge of allegiance to the flag taken by the assembled delegates. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Carnival Committee turned over a signed contract and report was received with thanks. Brother Moore deserves the thanks of the members for this work.

Various regular and special committees reported. The roll call of officers, delegates and locals followed. The letter from the Internal Revenue department was ordered to be answered with the statement that we have no salaried employees per the report asked for.

Certain highly skilled crafts are reported wanting the assistance for organization, from the Central body. President Scoggins was asked to leave the hall, and Brother Moore acted as president, while the delegates debated the endorsing of Brother Scoggins for the vacancy in the Council. It was decided, as this was not an election, but an appointment possibility, the subject was not political, and was in the same category as the appointments approved for the draft Boards, Federal Housing Authority, Parks and Recreation Committee, etc.

A motion passed unanimously to endorse Brother J. A. Scoggins for the vacancy caused by the passing away of Brother Hudson. Brother Scoggins was recalled into the hall and the chair. Brothers Kiser and Greene were authorized to see that the papers were notified.

The Tri-State A. F. of L. meeting last Sunday was a great success, and accomplished what it was designed to do. Delegates were asked to concentrate on the State A. F. of L. convention to be held in Charlotte. The stand on the 'Experience Rating System' is harmful, according to the officials of the A. F. of L.

## LABOR'S CO-OPERATION PLEDGED IN PROGRAM OF UNINTERRUPTED PRODUCTION IN INDUSTRIES OPERATING DEFENSE PROJECTS

The Labor Policy Advisory Committee of the National Defense Advisory Commission made public, on December 9, a statement pledging labor's continued cooperation in a country-wide program of uninterrupted production in defense industries.

This statement was unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of the Labor Policy Advisory Committee, which comprises sixteen representatives of the three great labor groups—6 representing the A. F. of L., 6 representing the CIO, and 4 representing the Railroad Brotherhoods.

The session was presided over by Sidney Hillman, chairman of the committee, and Commissioner in charge of the Labor Division for the National Defense Advisory Commission.

The statement follows: In this time of world crisis, American labor is awake to the crucial need for a strong national defense program. Labor recognizes fully that if the democratic way of life is to be preserved, and enlarged, our country must prepare itself for total defense—morally and materially. Labor knows that it is the first to be trampled under the march of dictatorship. Labor knows that if workers are to remain free men, and keep their free choices, democracy—as a living faith, as a living reality—must be equipped to meet the threat of totalitarianism, within and without. Labor has been and is—operating wholeheartedly throughout the entire defense effort. Until very recently no single serious interruption of production in defense industries had occurred; and then only too such work-stoppages took place—the first lasting six working days, and the second four days.

This record is ample evidence that labor recognizes the importance of continuous production to meet defense needs. Labor again re-affirms its assurance of cooperation with the national defense program and further pledges itself to take no action which may in any way impede production before all conciliation facilities of the Federal Government for resolving any existing controversy have been exhausted.

Mr. Hillman declared that "the point of view expressed by this committee, which speaks for all sections of organized labor, again confirms, and underscores, what has been and remains the serious determination of labor's leaders and its rank and file to give unstinted support to insure the success of the National Defense program."

The C. C. L. U. endorsed the inclusion of occupational diseases as compensable in the State Workmen's bill to be brought before the State legislative bodies.

After much discussion for the good of the order the meeting adjourned.

WM. S. GREENE, Sec.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., December 9.—This city is claiming a Local Union having the youngest officers of any Local Union in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. The local is that of the Asheville Mica Workers Local Union, organized six months ago, and is now preparing to negotiate an agreement with the management of the Asheville Mica Company. In the picture above the officers and their ages are as follows:



Seated at left, Miss Inez Whitaker, recording secretary, 20 years of age; standing, left to right, Miss Grace Cosgrove, vice-president, 21-plus (and this is the age she gave); Clendon Clark, president, 19 years of age; Miss Mary Wilson, financial secretary, 20 years of age, and Clarence Jackson, chairman of the Executive Board, 19 year of age. Miss Cosgrove is experienced in Union activity, and ably assists the young officers in the work of the Local Union.

## Lee Kelly, 72, A Labor Warrior, Passes Away

Funeral services for Coon R. Lee Kelly, 72, were held Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock at his home at 2009 Tenth Street. After two years of illness, he passed away Tuesday afternoon at 10:15 o'clock.

Baptist church. Rev. Raymond Long, pastor, officiated, assisted by Rev. Jeta Baker, of Wilmot Baptist church, Rev. Eugene Intery, of Statesville Ave. Baptist church, and Rev. G. W. Burke, of Fort Mill, S. C. Burial was in Elmwood cemetery.

Mr. Kelly, a retired carpenter, was formerly a resident of Georgia but had lived in Charlotte for the last fifteen years. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Sara Kelly; three sons, Claude Kelly, Leirne Kelly, and Roy Kelly, all of Charlotte; two daughters, Miss Gertrude Kelly, of the home and Mrs. Mamie Thompson, of Ocala, Fla.; and a brother, A. S. Kelly, of South Carolina.

Pallbearers will be J. J. Watson, O. E. Mathis, J. F. Lane, S. C. Boone, T. A. Martin, and W. H. Ferguson.

[And in the passing of Brother Kelly, a good man has gone to his reward. He was a faithful union man, and a man loyal to every duty—the home, the church, as a citizen and a lover of his fellow man. Peace be to his ashes.—Ed.]

PATRONIZE THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN THE JOURNAL

## IDEAL LABOR LEADER

BY DR. CHARLES STELZLE

Moses was the great labor leader who delivered from cruel bondage millions of Israelites who were slaves in Egypt. He might well serve as an example for the modern labor leader. The development of such a leader is always a slow process. For in the labor movement there is so much at stake, and there are so many interests involved, that the raw enthusiast can not be entrusted with the power of leadership.

Enthusiasm there should be, but it must be enthusiasm founded upon intelligence, knowledge and self-control. It required long years of solitude in the land of Midian to transform the hot-blooded Moses, the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, into the modest Moses whose name has become a synonym for meekness. "Learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians," nevertheless he needed the solidarity, deep-thinking life of the shepherd on the hillside to prepare him for the great task of leading out into liberty the slaves of the Egyptian ruler.

He came, too, with the consciousness of sure victory, because he knew that his cause was just. But more than that, he was confident because he came in the spirit of a strong moral faith. This conviction in which he was about to lead was more than an economic deliverance dependent upon brute strength, and the ability of a mere man to exercise unusual power. He had back of him the Omnipotent God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the forefathers of the afflicted Israelites.

The qualities that were so conspicuous in Moses must be found in the modern leader. He must have had an experience which sobered him, so that he is familiar with the deeper, truer things of life. He must depend not so much upon his speech as upon his character. He must have the power which can come alone through the consciousness that his cause is just, and that back of him, too, as He was back of Moses, stands the God of the common people, who is saying through him: "Let my people go."

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

## THE MARCH OF LABOR

**RUSS MORGAN**  
FAMOUS SWING ORCHESTRA LEADER, STILL KEEPS HIS COAL MINER'S UNION CARD.

A GOOD HEAD DESERVES A GOOD HAT; A UNION MAN DESERVES A UNION LABEL; YOU ARE CERTAIN OF BOTH BY LOOKING UNDER THE GREAT BAND OF YOUR NEXT HAT FOR THIS UNION LABEL.

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, AN EMPLOYER-SPONSORED ORGANIZATION, MADE A SURVEY IN 1929 OF 84 PLANTS WHICH HAD SWITCHED FROM THE 5K-OR 6-DAY WEEK TO THE 5-DAY WEEK. THE STUDY REVEALED THAT NEARLY 70% HAD EXPERIENCED EITHER NO DROP IN OUTPUT OR AN ACTUAL INCREASE.

IN 1931 WOMEN WERE PERMITTED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO WORK IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GOWN WORKERS' UNION, NOW NUMBERING 252,000 MEMBERS WHO FOUNDED JUNE 3, 1900, IN NEW YORK CITY. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 11 DELEGATES.

1940