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AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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



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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1942

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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ROBERT R. REYNOLDS IN OPPOSITION TO EVERYTHING THAT ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT HAS BUILT UP

[Charlotte Central Labor Union at its regular meeting last Wednesday night (April 1), had read the following letter from Robert Rice Reynolds, North Carolina's junior senator, and "Robert Rice" came in for no uncertain condemnation. Other Central Bodies and locals throughout the State have also long since placed the "no good" mark besides his labor stand in Congress, and a receipt for same will be handed him at his next election—if he runs.—Ed.]

Mr. W. S. Green, Secretary
Central Labor Union
Charlotte, N. C.

My dear Mr. Green:

Your wire of March 18th received, and I have read with interest what you have to say with respect to the labor situation that exists in our country today as it affects our war production program.

I have given this matter my most thorough and careful study and attention, and my views are best expressed on this most vital and important subject in the copy of the attached press release.

With all good wishes, and thanking you for writing me, believe me to be

Sincerely yours,
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS.

March 25, 1942.

(Press Release by Senator Robert R. Reynolds.)

For release Monday papers, March 23, 1942.

"Outlaw strikes, suspend for forty hour week, ban overtime payments suspend the closed shop on war contracts, permit any American to work unmolested who desires to aid in the war program regardless of whether or not he is affiliated with any labor organization, and place a six per cent maximum ceiling over all war profits, all for the duration of the war," said United States Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

"We Americans should be thinking more in terms of 'giving' and not so much in terms of 'getting' insofar as our war production program is concerned. At this critical time when America is fighting for its very existence and when our nation is imperiled from within as well as from without, I dislike very much to take issue with our President and Commander-in-Chief, and with Mrs. Frances Perkins, head of the Labor Department of our government, who have stated that Congress should not

take any action now in reference to the labor situation.

"Phillip Murray, president of the CIO, declared several days ago before a Congressional Committee that those who are advocating remedial labor legislation such as I have suggested are 'enemies of our government.' He referred to those who are advocating the passage of labor legislation as 'labor baiters.' I disagree with Mr. Murray because I do not believe that those thousands of signers of telegrams and letters which I have received from persons in North Carolina and elsewhere are enemies of America simply because they favor the passage of certain proposed labor legislation."

Senator Reynolds continued: "I am thoroughly convinced that our people are rapidly recognizing the fact that millions of Americans have not yet awakened to the realization that our country is engaged in a life and death struggle, the result of which will affect the very future of our country. The paramount need in America today is an unimpeded war production program. Maximum production is needed now, and this goal can only be attained by the complete abandonment of all selfish desires on the part of all financial or labor groups. We cannot reach our production peak if certain individuals and groups—financial and labor—insist on the status quo of operation prior to December 8, 1941."

"The time has arrived when it is necessary for every American, man and woman alike, young and old, to make every and all sacrifices at this grave time to insure for us an early and complete victory over our enemies.

"I have always been the friend of the laboring man. I believe in the right of labor to organize for its own protection and benefit. The laboring men of this country have certain rights, and I realize that those rights have not always been respected by capital. On the other hand, I am aware that labor must sacrifice along with all other American groups in a common effort to win this war. The winning of this war is our chief objective and we can win only by outstriking the axis powers in the matter of production of armaments and the sinews of war.

"Insofar as I am concerned I am now ready and willing to vote for legislation to outlaw strikes in defense industries, suspend the forty hour week, ban overtime payments and prohibit double time payments, outlaw the closed shop on war contracts, permit any American to work unmolested who desires to aid in the war program without becoming affiliated with any labor organization, and place a six per cent maximum ceiling over all war profits for the duration—during the emergency.

"I favor any American citizen being permitted to work as many hours as he desires without molestation regardless of whether he is a member of any labor organization or not. I am opposed to any further overtime or double time pay for the period of the duration of the war, ending all strikes in defense industries for the duration.

"The millions of working Americans constituting the rank and file of labor organizations are as patriotic as any other group of American citizens. They themselves should not be subjected to the vicious criticism which has been heaped on their shoulders. The fault lies largely in the hands of many of their officials and representatives. I refer to labor agitators and those primarily interested in their own selfish attainments. In recognition of that fact, and in the interest of the American laboring man affiliated with our labor organizations. On April 7, 1941, I introduced in the Senate of the United States S. J. Res. 64 entitled:

"Joint Resolution to provide for the national defense by prohibiting labor organizations from employing certain persons as officers or agents.

"Whereas it is common knowledge that 'fifth-column' activities in various European countries contributed largely to their defeat; and

"Whereas such activities consisted in part of sabotage in key industries and propaganda disseminated among the workers of such industries; and

"Whereas such activities are now being carried on in this country and will gather more momentum in the future, thus undermining our national defense; and

"Whereas because of their key positions in our industrial mobilization plans, officers and agents of labor organizations should all be American citizens whose allegiance to their country is unquestioned and who can be depended upon to co-operate with the Government in stamping out such treacherous activities: Therefore be it . . .

"Resolved that any alien, any member of the Communist party, any member of the Nazi Bund, any member of any Fascist organization, or any American who is deprived of his American citizenship by reason of his conviction of a felony, shall be prohibited from holding any office in or representing any labor union or organization . . .

"Unfortunately, this legislation which I proposed for the benefit of the American laboring men who are

(Continued on Page Three)

ORGANIZED LABOR TO TAKE SPOTLIGHT AT SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MEET IN NASHVILLE, APRIL 19-20-21

Special to The Labor Journal

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Organized labor in the South will take the spotlight when the Southern Conference for Human Welfare convenes in Nashville April 19-21.

Heading the labor delegations will be George Googe, Southern director of the American Federation of Labor, James B. Carey, national secretary of the Congress for Industrial Organization, and Hollis V. Reid, chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers.

With 1500 delegates expected from 16 Southern states, labor will have an opportunity to present its answer to Tory critics who have been engaged in a campaign of slander against them in the nation's press. With organized labor and liberal manufacturers to be presented on a panel on "Indus-

trial Production," the Southern Conference will demonstrate that co-operate, not rearmament, is the way to victory.



MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

trial Production," the Southern Conference will demonstrate that co-operate, not rearmament, is the way to victory.

Heading a long list of speakers will be Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, long a friend of organized labor, who will talk on "Youth and Training: Civilian and Military." fl

"The battle for industrial production can be won in the South," says Dr. Frank P. Graham, a member of the President's War Labor Board, in the call to the people of the South. "Our nation's industry," he continues, "largely located in vulnerable sea-

coast areas, finds its productive capacity strained to the breaking point. The plant-sites, the manpower, the raw materials are here. Industrialize the South. Employ its idle manpower—women as well as men, Negro as well as white—at decent living wages in a program of full production. This will defend America.

"A people, weakened by poor health, malnutrition, and bad housing resulting from low income, cannot do their part in the military and industrial defense of the nation," Dr. Graham said. "Our battle is to wipe out these conditions in the South through expanding industry and agriculture, the self-organization of labor, the widening of social security payments and coverage, the expansion of health and educational facilities, the improvement of housing and recreation—our battle for these things is a vital and integral part of the war program."

"Encouragement of political participation and equality of economic opportunity bolster the national morale and increase the national security," Dr. Graham went on. "The emergency challenges the South to the accomplishment of these tasks," he concluded. "The effort is essential to the maximum defense of America and to the final and complete victory in the war."

BUTTON UP YOUR LIPS

If you heard a bit of gossip
Whether false or whether true,
Be it of a friend or stranger,
Let me tell you what to do,
Button up your lips securely;
Lest the tale you should repeat
Bring sorrow unto some one
Whose life now is none too sweet.
If you see careless action
That would bring its author woe
If it were constructed unkindly,
Let me tell you what to do,
Button up your lips securely;
'Tis far better to keep silent
Than to cause a tear or sigh.
If you knew of one who yielded
To temptation long ago,
But whose life has since been
blameless,
Let me tell you what to do,
Button up your lips securely,
His secret, God alone
Has the right to sit in judgment.
Treat it as to you unknown.
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HELP LABOR PAPERS--NOT THE KEPT PRESS

I. M. ORNBURN, Secretary-Treasurer
Union Label Trades Department

Recently a bitter campaign of malicious propaganda to poison the public's mind against organized labor, has been carried on by the subsidized press which is composed of reactionary daily newspapers controlled through ownership and advertising by exploiting profiteers and labor union-haters. Together with the bourbon politicians, idle rich and anti-labor columnists, they are the real parasites of our country. It is none of our business whether these useless individuals work or not, but what raises our ire is their audacity in slandering the producers who do the actual work—the men who are making our munitions, tanks, planes and other vital equipment for American victory.

By peddling falsehoods about labor the subsidized press is creating factionalism, disunity and class hatred. If Hitler were not so busy running away from a victorious Russian army he should take time to pin medals on the editors and columnists who are misleading the public. The reactionary editors of the newspapers, known as the fourth estate, are becoming fifth columnists because they are doing just what Hitler predicted he could accomplish through his agents. That is to divide and conquer.

The proof that they are making misstatements is found in the fact that this week the President of the United States, in a press conference, stated that five editors of newspapers had written him to the effect that we should repeal the laws that prevent men from working over 40 hours a week. There are no laws that prevent any man from working longer hours if he so desires.

Recently in a radio broadcast the chairman of the National War Labor Board declared there is not a single strike in war production plants that has been authorized by responsible leaders of either the A. F. of L. or the C. I. O. He said there may be a few outlaw strikes, which labor leaders have tried to prevent, but on the whole 99.98 per cent of all workers are actively on the job and exceeding the schedules set for this year. For every 9998 men at work there are only two idle.

When members of organized labor read misstatements about unions in the daily newspapers they should immediately protest to the editor or at least stop subscribing to a newspaper that lie about them. Let's support the labor press and not the kept press. Let's subscribe to the newspapers that are printing the facts about what labor is doing. Let's send our subscription money to the papers that print the true story about members of A. F. of L. unions who took up the guns of the fallen heroes at Pearl Harbor and continued the battle against the atrocious Japs. When daily newspaper editors and columnists find that members of unions are not reading the slander from their poisonous pens they will soon learn to respect the truth. Members of unions can stop this smearing campaign of the kept press by supporting only labor newspapers.