

# - "United We Stand for Victory" -

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE AND FOR A WEEKLY ITS READERS REPRESENT THE LARGEST BUYING POWER in Charlotte MECKLENBURG COUNTY IN ITS ENTIRETY



## The Charlotte Labor Journal

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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



VOL. XII.—NO. 9

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1942

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

### F. D. R. MAY ASK WAGE CONTROL; CUT IN PARITY LEVEL POTENTIAL AIM FOR LIVING COST TALK

WASHINGTON, July 18.—A high administration official said yesterday President Roosevelt may ask congress in a new cost of living message for broad, flexible authority to control wages and for additional power to clamp down on farm prices.

The president told his press conference the whole problem of inflation and wage controls was under study, but indicated he was not yet ready to make definite recommendations. Congressional leaders said later they were informed any forthcoming message might be delayed at least 10 days.

The official, who would not be quoted by name, said the president and his advisors were discussing a request for a broad delegation of power to him by congress to put a ceiling on wages that would hitch them definitely to the cost of living index.

Beyond that, the president was reported to desire a reduction in the 10 per cent parity level congress fixed as the lowest point in which ceilings could be placed on crops. (Parity is the price calculated to give a commodity the same relative purchasing power it had in a past period, usually 1909-14.)

It was said that Mr. Roosevelt was not likely to recommend any specific keep pay checks and prices in line methods for controlling wages but would want general power that could be used to adjust inequalities and to

with each other. The president said at his press conference that the basis of all policy on the problem was to keep the cost of living from going up. He gave some hint of the seriousness with which he regarded increased food prices in discussion of the 44-cents-a-day wage increase recommended by the war labor board for union employees of "Little Steel" who had asked a \$1-raise.

While he said an inquiry was under way to determine if a wage raise meant that steel prices must be boosted, the president remarked that a 5 per cent wage increase there would not force up the living cost nearly so much as would a similar raise in a canning factory.

The whole thing was relative and must be kept in line as much as possible in all industries, he declared.

Price Administrator Leon Henderson recently was forced to puncture the ceilings established on canned fruits because they did not reflect 110 per cent parity returns for growers and his apprehension about the effect of this action on the whole price control structure was said to be shared by the president.

### CHARLOTTE LABOR UNIONS SUPPORT "PAT ON THE BACK DRIVE"

Sentiment among all union officials and members has been very strong for the "PAT ON THE BACK" campaign. A campaign to buy appropriate gifts and good will presents to the men of CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY who are mustered into our armed services.

General Campaign Director, S. A. Van Every called especial attention to the fact that only this week has been designated as the period for the special effort. "Time is of the essence," said Mr. Van Every, "and we are confident that our people will respond promptly, and effectively."

Chairman Sid McAden expressed himself as follows: "This is one of the finest things of which I have ever heard. Certainly every person in Mecklenburg County who can have a part in this movement to provide a cheery sort of farewell for our young men as they leave for service in the army, will wish to do so."

Reverend Herbert Spaugh, general chairman of the "Pat On The Back" club under whose sponsorship this campaign has developed, said "This campaign appeals to everybody, and we are confident that the response will, in the aggregate, not only prove large but will also embrace very wide participation."

MAIL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOX NO. 411—or to MR. IVEY W. STEWART, CAMPAIGN TREASURER—or avail yourself of the many attractive boxes and containers set aside in key points of theatre lobbies, lobbies of our stores and hotels and many other public places—and make your contribution. LET US REALLY "PAT OUR BOYS ON THE BACK."

#### TO VACATE SOME SWIVEL CHAIRS

In his "Washington Front" column, Charles M. Kelley in Labor, writes the following: "Washington is about to witness—and with great relish—the exodus of a big contingent of swivel chair army officers who have been shining brass buttons since the war started and discussing strategy at cocktail bars. Their palmy days in the capital are over, for they're going to be sent to the front, whether they like it or not, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson promised last week.

Their places are to be filled by experts plucked from civilian life and enrolled in the new army specialist corps, under Dwight F. Davis, Secretary of War under President Coolidge.

Stimson stiffened qualifications for admission to the specialist corps to keep draft dodgers and costume soldiers out. No person who can serve with the colors in the field will be accepted, he said.

Nobody knows, not even Stimson, how many men have obtained commissions with the sole object of escaping service at the front. "But," he said, "there are far too many. My strongest desire since I've been here is just to accomplish this."

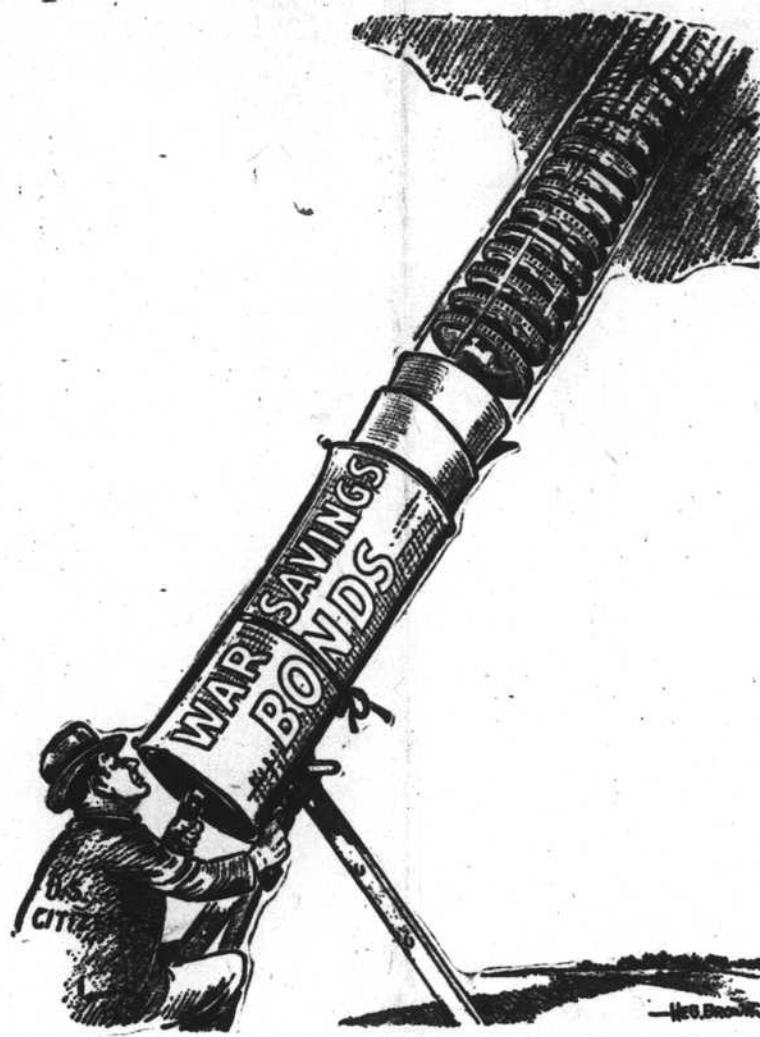
It's been a tough battle to clean out draft dodgers, he admitted, adding: "You may not know what pressure is brought up on the War Department to put some people in combat uniforms without sending them into combat."

### SENATOR REYNOLDS, "THE AMERICAN VINDICATOR"

The current issue of "THE AMERICAN VINDICATOR," sponsored and edited by Bob Reynolds has some very definite ideas on many things and many people. Here is the BOX SCORE:

THE VINDICATOR IS AGAINST	HITLER IS AGAINST
Lend-Lease to ENGLAND	Lend-Lease to ENGLAND
Support to RUSSIA	Support to RUSSIA
The Labor Unions	The Labor Unions
The Greeks	The Greeks
The Jews	The Jews
A League of Nations with an international police force to prevent further aggression.	A League of Nations with an international police force to prevent further aggression.
X—Result: The Score Is Tied.	

### Get Your Gun!



—From Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal.

### Labor Builds Hemisphere Solidarity, Nelson Rockefeller Acknowledges

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The framework of our present hemisphere solidarity has been built up "in important measure" by the efforts of organized labor. Nelson Rockefeller, coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, declares in a significant article in the July issue of the American Federationist.

American labor was "one of the first organized groups in the country to appreciate the possibilities and the need of hemisphere solidarity," he says.

The stake of American labor is enduring friendship among the republics of the Western Hemisphere is very great, Rockefeller points out, and he calls upon the trade unions of the United States to continue their efforts to stimulate interest in the other American nations. The unions have already done a great deal in this direction, he says, but "intensification of this educational activity would be a substantial contribution to the general war effort."

"The will of the people to achieve inter-American solidarity is the real foundation for success," Rockefeller says. "Every citizen can help to strengthen the foundation by improving his knowledge about the problems involved and then helping to spread that knowledge in his own community."

Defining inter-American cooperation as application in a practical way of the truth that in unity is strength," Rockefeller observes:

"In many ways it is the translation into the international scene of

those principles which every union man knows have made for the strength of the labor movement and of social progress at home."

Rockefeller says it is "no coincidence" that the establishment of the Pan-American Union, the first great forward step toward inter-American cooperation, was accompanied by United States labor's first moves toward cooperation with workers in the other American republics. He points out that more than 50 years ago Samuel Gompers proclaimed his belief that the problems of labor throughout the hemisphere were linked.

Rockefeller, citing the growth of the labor movements in the republics to the south, says the ties between them and the labor movement of the United States have been strengthened as the Latin-American unions developed. Today the labor leaders in the nations of the hemisphere are increasingly familiar with one another's problems, he remarks.

Turning to the war, Rockefeller writes:

"The organized labor movement has recognized that this is indeed a people's war. Workers know that the united force of the world's free peoples can and will win the war. They understand that a peace in which the standards they have won will be secure, and in which they can proceed to higher gains for themselves and their fellows, is the reward of victory. Inter-American cooperation is a vital factor in the victory of the United Nations."

### "THEY ARE LIKE LILLIES OF THE FIELD..."

Recent investigation by Congressional Committees have uncovered the startling fact that fabulous sums of money have been paid out to various firms and individuals as commissions for securing War contracts. These individuals contribute very little to our war effort—management does not get this money as a rightful return on its capital and labor does not get it for its effort and the Army and the Navy does not get it in extra equipment or better munitions. It goes into thin air as far as the general welfare is concerned. In one instance it was shown that one individual received \$256,000.00—over a quarter of a million dollars as commission for Naval contracts. A sum that would create 5 combat aeroplanes or 15 heavy cannons—or 2 armored tanks. Now that it has been brought to full light, it will be interesting to see how soon this waste will be eliminated.

Workers in a Mid-West war plant worked 127 days without a day off to speed the Production Drive and they're still working.

### Do No Retire If You Want To Live

DENVER, July 17.—Think you'll be happy when you sell that business and start taking life easy? A psychotherapist, attending the international College of Surgeons, says not. The man who retires after an active business or professional life doesn't know how to adapt himself to idleness in the belief of Dr. Tom B. Throckmorton of Des Moines, Iowa. You'll live longer and die happier," he says, by sticking with your work.

Dr. Throckmorton contributed his views on retirement while discussing emotional instabilities produced by the war.

### LABOR LEADER'S WIFE MAY SPONSOR LAUNCHING "SAMUEL GOMPERS"

Mrs. John P. Frey, wife of the president of the Metal Trades Council, AFL, will sponsor the "Samuel Gompers" when the ship is launched at Terminal Island, California, on Labor Day, according to present tentative plans. John Fry is expected to deliver an important message to the shipworkers at the yard. The address will be radioed to all shipyards.

### Respectfully To The "Observer"

For several days the CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, our great and highly respected neighbor has emphasized the fact that an injustice may be done to the vast army of unorganized workers—by reason of the fact that in a recent decision UNION WORKERS have achieved a slight increase in wages based on the rise in the cost of living.

If the purpose is to speak for the unorganized workers there can be no argument whatsoever, but is not the result itself the greatest tribute to UNIONISM? IS IT THE FAULT OF THE LABOR UNIONS—that the unorganized workers do not have proper representation? Is there any disgrace in talking up for your membership? Labor Unions are no more than associations long in existence and similar to organizations acting as spokesmen for MANUFACTURERS—INDUSTRIALISTS—CHURCHES—FRATERNITIES AND MANY OTHERS.

The basis of UNIONISM—the original idea behind it—as set forth by the first UNION—the TONTINE SYSTEM IN FRANCE—was that—AT THE POINT OF HIRE—an individual with nothing more than a wife and children stood before another individual who had a HUGE ORGANIZATION BEHIND HIM. It was then thought that the worker, admittedly contributing one third the share to wealth—(Adam Smith, "Wealth is 1-3 capital, 1-3 land, and 1-3 labor)—it was thought then that labor should also have an ORGANIZATION behind him.

In all conferences on this earth out of which some common good has come, it has come through some such spokesman for a group, great or small. The farmers for nearly 100 years have had such central bodies—the steel manufacturers and the other great businesses on this earth have also had these unions. Even the Churches have accomplished their tremendous work through conferences at which FEDERATED UNIONS OF MANY GROUPS have been able to speak up for the vast bodies behind them and ultimately for the common welfare.

MOST OF OUR PEOPLE ARE NOW AGREED THAT IT IS SOME "UNION OF NATIONS" THAT WE ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR—surely, a strong "union" in 1933 and 1934—when the seeds of destruction were being sowed in Europe—surely if such a strong "union" had existed, there may have been no bloodshed now.

### "LET'S GO U.S.A.—KEEP 'EM FLYING"

#### WHAT DOES THE COAST GUARD DO?

What does the Coast Guard do in time of war? That is a question frequently asked about this branch of the service, which operates under the treasury department as Uncle Sam's police and rescue squad is peacetime, and adds the duties of a military force, in wartime, under the Navy department.

The Coast Guard's primary duty is about what the name implies, guarding our coasts. This is done with Coast Guard cutters, patrol boats, airplanes, and men afoot. The cutters, 165 to 327 feet long, are fast, heavily armed vessels, which ply along our coasts night and day, looking for submarines, persons or ships in distress, any threat to American life, property, or laws. Patrol boats are smaller and perform the same duties where greater speed and maneuverability are needed. Coast Guard planes, mostly seaplanes and amphibians, also patrol the coasts, watching for any suspicious activity, flying to the

rescue of ships or men in trouble. Coast Guard surf men tramp along every foot of our beaches night and day, keeping an eye on everything along the shores.

The Coast Guard is putting into operation hundreds of sub-chasers, fast, 83-foot boats, carrying 12 men, radio equipment, machine guns, depth bombs, and the last in listening equipment for locating subs under water.

Another major job of the Coast Guard in this war is supervising all harbors and ports. It supervises the loading of every cargo, including explosives, the collection of customs, watches for spies and saboteurs, enforces all laws governing ships, their safety, and the warfare of the crews. Coastguardsmen also stand guard over all government property along the coasts and waterways.

These, and many other duties less dramatic but just as important, constitute the Coast Guard's wartime task of looking out for things around the home shores so that most of the navy can go wherever it's needed.

#### TRUCK DRIVERS FURNISH THE LARGEST GROUP INDUCTED INTO ARMY

More than 15 per cent of the white males inducted into the Army from February 1 to May 31 were truck drivers, tractor drivers, teamsters, chauffeurs or garage mechanics, according to the War Department.

They furnish by far the largest group classified as occupational specialist who were inducted under the selective service act during that period. About 56.4 per cent of those inducted were classified as occupational specialists and the other 43.5 per cent were classified for basic training.

There were 50 heavy truck drivers per 1000 selectees, 43 light truck drivers, 25 tractor drivers, 14 auto service men, 12 teamsters, and 6 chauffeurs.

The next largest group was composed of sales clerks—31 per thousand—or about one-fifth as many as in the automotive group. There were 27 machine operators in every thousand; 9 clerk-typists, 9 stock clerks, 7 miners, 6 bookkeepers, 5 teachers, 4 lawyers, 4 accountants, and 4 chain store managers. All other occupational groups had fewer than 4 representatives in every thousand.

#### SEAMEN INVEST PREMIUM PAY IN BONDS

Two thousand members of the Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, West Coast Local 90, AFL, have approved acceptance of War bonds and stamps in lieu of thousands of dollars in overtime pay they are receiving, because of war conditions, according to a report made by Capt. C. F. May, president of the local, to Admiral E. F. Land, War Shipping Administrator.

In addition to "all overtime," the licensed deck officers of the Merchant Marine agreed to put half their war bonds into bonds and stamps. It is estimated that under current conditions each man will be putting a minimum of \$150 monthly into war bonds. "They risk their lives, every time they go to the sea," Capt. May commented. "Now they are putting in their earnings besides."

#### DANGER IN FIREPLACES

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Open fireplaces in Alabama were greater hazards to life than scarlet fever and diphtheria combined in 1940. Fireplaces caused ninety-seven deaths, scarlet fever fifteen and diphtheria sixty-one.

### USE THE PAYROLL PLAN—10% EACH WEEK FOR WAR BONDS

#### To Our Many Correspondents

Thanks very much to the many people of the mills, factories, projects and just friends who write us each week. We cannot spare the space to print the letters, but we will devote an entire page for these interesting items in our annual LABOR DAY EDITION at the end of AUGUST. You will all see your letters, poems, and stories then. Thank you again, and keep them coming.