

Labor Is On The Job 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.

12 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA READERS

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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SOUTHERN LABOR CONFERENCE DECLARES THAT POLL TAX IS A CONTRADICTION IN A DEMOCRACY

(Concluded From Last Week)

POLL TAX A CONTRADICTION IN A DEMOCRACY

In this terrible war that is world wide in scope, the contest is between dictatorship and democratic procedures. The American Federation of Labor was formed and came into existence because of labor's dedication to the ideals of democracy where those who govern must be selected by the governed. It is neither fair nor just nor honest in any government claiming to be established as a government of the people, and by the people, and for the people, to place a monetary condition upon a sovereign citizen in the free exercise of his franchise. Therefore, the Southern War Labor Conference here assembled, urges a continued fight by the American Federation of Labor for the repeal of the poll taxes as a condition for voting.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S AID TO NEGRO LABOR

As a majority of the negro citizens of the United States live in the twelve states represented in this conference, it is most fitting and proper that questions affecting the welfare of the negro labor should have had a prominent place in the discussions and deliberations of this body. The officers and delegates from the American Federation of Labor Unions in these twelve states in attendance upon this conference are proud of the fact that those wise leaders who founded the American Federation of Labor adopted as one of its fundamental principles that the organized labor movement then being formed was devoted and dedicated to the high and holy purpose of the advancement and protection and well being of all wage earners without regard to race, creed, or color.

As a result of the efforts of our organized labor movement in these Southern States, more than 300,000 negroes are now members of our Unions in these twelve states. While it is true that thousands upon thousands of them still live on sub-standard wages, it is also true that more thousands of white people in the South continue to live upon sub-standard wages.

SUB-STANDARD WAGES

As an immediate aid in the solution of the various problems confronting workers of the South of both races who are in the sub-standard wage group, this conference begs and employs the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated National and International Unions to exert their full efforts and influence with the wage

stabilization commission to establish a minimum wage rate essential to fair living conditions, and declare all wages under that rate to be a sub-standard wage. This being done, the wage stabilization commission would then be asked to permit an increase in wages when agreed upon between employers and labor in these sub-standard groups to be put into effect without having to obey the order based upon the Little Steel decision, which has been accepted as the yard stick for wage increases. Such a provision would relieve the War Labor Board of a large part of its work and in part solve the problems of the low wage group caused by terrific increased cost in living, and at the same time would be beneficial to employers who are losing much of their best labor to the war industries where higher wage rates prevail.

MORE ORGANIZERS NEEDED

Because of the rapid expansion of industry in the States represented in this conference during the past several years and the phenomenal increase in membership of the American Federation of Labor Unions in these twelve states and for the further reason that there are large numbers of workers as yet unorganized in this section, it is the earnest desire of this conference that the American Federation of Labor find some way of increasing the number of its representatives in the states making up this Southern War Labor Conference. It is with a sense of deep gratitude that the leaders of the twelve State Federations of Labor here assembled note the largely increased number of organizers sent to this section by the National and International Unions af-

A. F. OF L. UNIONS WILL DOUBLE PRODUCTION IN 1943 IS PLEDGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MIAMI, Fla.—The Executive Council pledged that the trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor "will do everything in their power to fulfill and even exceed" the Nation's doubled war production goals for this year. "Our army of production soldiers made good last year," the council declared. "They will do even better this year if they are given a fair chance."

The statement warned against "force" compulsion or regimentation in the handling of war production problems and pointed out that voluntary methods bring the best results.

The experience and training that the Nation's labor obtained on the job last year will stand America in good stead this year and make for increased output. Other favorable factors, processes, and the completion of many new plants for the manufacture of planes, ships, tanks and guns.

The council's declaration was made public by President William Green at a press conference following the first session of the annual mid-winter meeting.

Mr. Green disclosed that the council plans to review the entire course of the war effort to date and chart plans and policies for the future which will promote increased and more efficient production.

He also announced that the first meetings of the Anglo-American Labor Committee will be held here next week when the British delegation, headed by Sir Walter Citrine, is scheduled to arrive from overseas.

This meeting, he said, will discuss ways and means of expanding war production among the United Nations and of widening the scope of labor's participation in the war effort. The committee also will make plans for labor representation at the peace conferences after victory is achieved.

SULLIVAN—A UNION MAN

We admit the true spirit of our democratic free government is above any classification of groups, religious affiliation and profession or trade—that under the banner of the flag we are all Americans—but the labor-baitors never let up a moment—unverified stories—propaganda, and other methods all for the purpose of trying to tear organized labor apart. Well, here is one story that is VERIFIED. The man who lost five sons on one ship—MR. SULLIVAN of Waterloo, Iowa was a member of a labor union and a member in good standing for over 20 years—We have but to look around us and see the contributions of organized labor to our war effort. IT IS ALL OUT AND WILL BE INTENSIFIED ON ALL FRONTS.

filiated with the American Federation of Labor and we trust that the visit to this city and section by the officers of these National and International Unions will result in doubling and trebling the number of organizers in the states here represented.

Associated with this request is a reminder to the National and International Unions that if their Local Unions would become affiliated with their respective State Federations of Labor and too, be honest with the State organizations and pay their small per capita tax on their full membership, the State Federation of Labor would have ample funds with which to employ additional organizers and would not have to be calling upon the American Federation of Labor to send more representatives into these cities.

WHITE COLLAR WORKERS

This conference notes with keen delight the ever increasing number of white collar workers affiliating themselves with Unions of the American Federation of Labor. The Unions of school teachers have demonstrated, in each instance where organized, the value to themselves and to the labor movement generally of organization and affiliation of these groups. Draftsmen, architects, and engineers are now a component part of our Unions in the South and yet the field has hardly been touched. Office workers, one of the most rapidly growing group of workers in the South find that organization is most beneficial. This conference urges all white collared workers to come into the American Federation of Labor and receive for themselves the benefits of organized labor and at the same time lend their influence and intellect and leadership to this great movement. Much legislation is now pending both in Congress and State Legislatures in the interest of the white collared workers, and this conference urges the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated National and International Unions to use the great influence in securing the enactment of such proposed legislation as will be beneficial to this great group.

CHILDREN OF AMERICA

The American Federation of Labor has consistently since its formation insisted upon enactment of legislation for the protection of the children of America. Splendid standards had been attained through the years for America's childhood. In the stress of the war and because of the growing need for greater efforts in production already some of these standards have been lowered. This conference would call upon the public to give most serious consideration to any effort made in any cause at the expense of America's childhood. It must be remembered that certain industries in America were built upon child labor and it can hardly be expected that all men have died who once exploited child labor, and this conference would ask that full investigation of every announced need be made in every instance where efforts are put forth to eliminate any of the conditions that have been built up for the protection of the Children of America.

POST WAR PERIOD

(Continued on Page Four)

JACK MOORE IS LOUD IN PRAISE OF SOUTHERN LABOR CONFERENCE; 2 LOCAL UNIONS ELECT OFFICERS

By J. A. MOORE

Brother A. E. Brown, representative of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor is in the city on a special assignment, and is spending some time with us down at the Labor Temple. He, like most all others who attended the Southern War Labor Conference, is highly elated over the success of that Conference. Delegates came there from almost everywhere and when the city was too full for any more to get in we learned that they had just begun to arrive. Every hotel was sold out and about 500 beds were placed in the auditorium to take care of the overflow.

We lived a complete life in the Labor Movement in just the few days we were there, I mean we were shown the growth of the A. F. of L. step by step, from its very beginning until this day when we were permitted to hear many prominent leaders from many departments of our United States Government, pronounce the benediction of those responsible for our success in this war effort as "Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant!"

Many of our local labor leaders were present and joined in President Green's pledge to President Roosevelt, that Labor will double the 1942 production record in 1943, and at the same time labor called on all branches of the Legislature not to pass any anti-labor legislation for the duration, it was brought out that more deaths had occurred in industry since Pearl Harbor than had occurred in the armed services of the United States in the same period, most of these could have been avoided if proper safety devices had been installed. Why don't some one that is so quick to see something to criticize labor about, see if they can't do something about this condition? Say, for example, the man out on the Providence Road, who has busied himself getting signatures to some sort of petition.

Local Labor has gone all out for the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, manufacturers of Union Made Cigarettes and Tobacco, to supply cigarettes to the men in the armed services with the regular fifteen-cent size packages of Union Made cigarettes at a cost of a nickel a package. They have made arrangements with the personnel department of the Army and Navy to distribute these cigarettes to the men in the service, for which there will be no extra charge, all local Unions sending cigarettes can designate which general area they would like to have them sent, and may also have a label placed

on each package saying these cigarettes were donated by their local union, it is to be hoped that your local will take advantage of this opportunity to give these future toilers a moral lift when they most need it.

The Central Labor Union is co-operating with the Labor division of the National Federation for Infantile Paralysis, with a committee composed of the following devoting much time in this effort, Brothers S. F. Blackwelder, R. E. Harris, D. L. Funderburk. They will not be able to visit each local union therefore I suggest that if you haven't heard from them you call one of them for any information you desire. They are all listed in the Telephone Directory, or, you may call The Labor Journal.

I have been ill for a short time and as a result have got behind with some of my work, some of which was the following reports of two outstanding Local Unions:

Operating Plasterers and Cement Finishers of America, Local 477 Charlotte, N. C. held their regular meeting January 2nd which was well attended; much routine business was handled in a very harmonious manner, chief of which was the election of officers for the ensuing year with the following being elected: President P. W. Gift; vice-president, Thomas Draddy; secretary-treasurer, T. A. Aldridge; recording secretary, R. T. Crider; sergeant-at-arms, Adam Hall. This local Union meets the first and third Saturday nights of each month at 8:00 P. M. at the Labor Temple.

The Charlotte Building and Construction Trades Council held a special meeting January 13, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year with the following being elected: President W. M. Gibson; vice-president, T. A. Aldridge; recording secretary, E. E. Cornwell; secretary-treasurer, O. L. Teague; meetings will be held twice monthly at the Labor Temple, second and fourth Tuesday nights at 7:30 P. M.

Unionists Help Armed Forces To "Clean Up for Victory"

Organized labor is helping our fighting men to clean up the Axis in more ways than one.

A novel idea has been worked out by United Nations Relief of the Labor League for Human Rights. It is to send a gift of "soap leaves" to our soldiers with the slogan, "Clean Up for Victory!" These soap leaves come in a little booklet which informs the soldier that it is a gift from American Labor.

Each leaf of the book is impregnated with soap, and furnishes the user with sufficient lather to wash the hands and face. For a soldier on the march, these handy little booklets are a godsend.

They occupy less space than a book of cigarette papers; they make the large, cumbersome cake of soap unnecessary; and they reduce the weight of the soldier's kit appreciably.

In months to come American troops in the silt trenches of Guadalcanal or the dusty plains and mountain gorges of Tunisia will tear a soap leaf from the "Clean Up for Victory" booklet, add a little water from their canteens, and answer the mess call refreshed and clean. A small thing perhaps, but a contribution to morale by American labor that will be appreciated.

CLEAN UP FOR VICTORY!



A GIFT TO OUR FIGHTING MEN FROM AMERICAN LABOR

The first quantity of the Clean-Up booklets were provided, appropriately enough, by the Laundry Workers International Union. Soldiers who want additional soap books can get more by sending a postcard to the Labor League for Human Rights, 9 East 46th Street, New York City, or to the union.

In a letter sent to international union presidents, Matthew Woll, president of the Labor League for Human Rights, has expressed the conviction that "organized labor desires to establish ever more cordial and closer relations with the armed forces."

"I am happy to inform you," he wrote, "that in addition to the printing, which is done in a union plant, the soap leaves are made by a union concern whose workers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada."

Mr. Woll added that the wholesale price of the soap books is \$15 per thousand.

The soap books have been approved by the New York Office of the Quartermaster of the United States Army as a useful item for men overseas. Shipments to our fighting men are handled by this office. The Army can use great quantities and there is no doubt that in months to come American soldiers will be using the booklets to wash the dust and grime of Africa and Europe from hands that will liberate the world.

While the soap books are small and compact there is still room for a brief message to our fighting men from organized labor.

On an inside cover soldiers from the Solomons to Iceland will read the following message:

"Labor's Pledge To You
"We shall do our utmost so that when you return to your home and to your job after Hitlerism is cleaned up, it will be to an America free from insecurity and unemployment; free from injustice and intolerance."

IT TAKES BOTH!



Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves