

# 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

12 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA READERS

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. 42

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1943

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

### PAY INCREASE FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES HAS THE SUPPORT OF THIRTY-THREE CONGRESSMEN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Thirty-three members of Congress appeared before the House Postoffice Committee in one day and demanded quick enactment of legislation under which all postal workers would get a \$300 annual pay increase for the duration of the war and six months after. No opposition was expressed to the bill of Representative O'Brien (Democrat) of Michigan, providing for the temporary increase.

Senator Davis (Republican) of Pennsylvania said the measure should reach House and Senate quickly and be "passed immediately."

Representative Fitzpatrick (Democrat) of New York contended the present pay scale is insufficient to maintain a proper standard of living.

Representative Dondro (Republican) of Michigan, declaring that postal workers had not received an increase since 1925, said that wages in industry had increased, living costs had increased 21 per cent and "this injustice to postal workers must be corrected."

Representative Gale (Republican) of Minnesota told the committee the request was "not a raid on the Treasury, but justice for the forgotten man in the post office."

Representative Angell (Republican) of Oregon said, "It is unfortunate that large numbers of permanent employees of the Government don't get the same consideration accorded thousands of temporary workers in the war effort."

Representative Auchincloss (Republican) of New Jersey recommended that the committee report a bill which

would be all-inclusive, embracing all post office workers, such as maintenance employees, and not just those performing actual postal duties.

Representative Wolverton (Republican) of New Jersey said the post office should not be required to show a cash balance at the end of the year "because it performs a function quite as important to the nation as the Army and Navy."

Among others who appeared, to go on record in support of the bill, were Representatives Hill (Republican) of Colorado, Murdock (Democrat) of Arizona, Harless (Democrat) of Arizona, O'Hara (Republican) of Minnesota, Rolph (Republican) of California, Johnson (Republican) of California, Day (Republican) of Illinois, Sauthoff (Progressive) of Wisconsin, Busbey (Republican) of Illinois, Robinson (Democrat) of Utah, Gavin (Republican) of Pennsylvania, Kunkel (Republican) of Pennsylvania, Boren (Democrat) of Oklahoma, Hinshaw (Republican) of California, Ellsworth (Republican) of Oregon, Voorhis (Democrat) of California, Vursell (Republican) of Illinois, Ludlow (Democrat) of Indiana, and Bender (Republican) of Ohio.

### PAYMENT HOLIDAYS, ILLNESS, ETC. NOT TO BE CREDITED AGAINST OVERTIME UNDER CONTRACTS LET

A further step toward uniformity in the overtime requirements under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act was announced today by L. Metcalf Walling, Administrator of the Division in the United States Department of Labor which enforces both Acts.

Under the new ruling, amounts paid employees for holidays not worked or sickness may not be credited against overtime due under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act. Mr. Walling pointed out that the amounts paid for such hours not worked are not paid as overtime but for a variety of reasons—to reward employees for faithfulness, loyalty and length of service, to bolster personnel morale, to safeguard physical health and well-being of employees by giving them needed rest and relaxation and to conform to progressive business practice. Such amounts cannot therefore be credited to the overtime due under the Fair Labor Standards Act or the Public Contracts Act. This position has been consistently adhered to in interpretations under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

### Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves

#### Treasury Department Request



Thousands of labor unions have achieved the 10% War Bond goal, but the Treasury Department has no complete record on these achievements. In order that Treasury records may show the scope of labor's outstanding War Bond work, will union officers please fill in and mail the form below, if their members are averaging 10% or more every payday.

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our local union has topped that 10% in War Bonds. Please put us on the Honor Roll. More than 90% of the members of our union are putting 10% or more of their earnings into War Bonds each payday through a Payroll Savings Plan. There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ workers in our local.

Sincerely yours,

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(title) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Local Union No.) \_\_\_\_\_

(International Union) \_\_\_\_\_

Note to union officials: If the company with which your union has contractual relations has achieved the 10% mark, put their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

### EDITORIAL

#### THE DIE IS CAST

[In a wilderness of growing anti-Roosevelt and anti-New Deal sentiment, The Labor Journal desires to state its case in speaking, the editor believes, for the workers of Charlotte and North Carolina.—Editor.]

In William Shakespeare's great drama "JULIUS CAESAR" he has a passage which goes something like this: "Those friends thou hast and their adaption tried, grapple them to your hearts with hoops of steel."

We mention this only in passing that our conservative friends in the South, not excluding our great neighbors The Observer and The News have grappled to their hearts all the enemies of Roosevelt—and even Jim Farley is getting loud huzzas from all and sundry folks around here who in former years would not have a civil word for a New York Tammany politician.

Now Jim Farley is all right, and they are all gathering around his festive board because he is now ANTI-ROOSEVELT, and they all feel that here is the chance to throttle the NEW DEAL.

Sometimes, Silence is Golden, and it is wise to gather your facts, figures and forces together before a battle, provided time is given for such procedure. Coming events are casting their shadows before them, and the ANTI-ROOSEVELT campaign, which started back early in 1942 is beginning to get momentum, WITH THE AVOWED PURPOSE OF BIG BUSINESS AND LABOR HATERS, COMPRISING A LARGE MAJORITY OF OUR DAILY PRESS, TO DELIVER TO THE NEW DEAL THEORIES OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT A DEATH BLOW—WHICH WILL NOT BE DELIVERED.

With all the Peglers, Sullivans, Rickenbackers, the Senate and Congress blocs against the President, and others will not avail, for THE PEOPLE WILL RULE. Dirty digs against organized labor, insults to the President's family and children, the cry of plutocrats and the would-be dictators, and the "little boy," whom his employers make believe he is "BIG BUSINESS" and must not be oppressed by "COMMON LABORERS," which includes all workers whom they would have become FREE individual agents, or a part of the company union.

The Labor Journal has endeavored to be fair and square and for 12 years has stood for that which it believes to be sane and just. It has seen the workers in this territory suffer, nearly starve in the dark days of the depression.

This writer, the editor has seen cases of Christian men, heads of families, foodless and without fuel, light or water—because they belonged to a union, which had no funds to help them; he saw things on the side streets, the non-beautiful streets, of which THE OBSERVER editor spoke some days ago—only in a more deplorable condition.

THEN, WE WERE UNDER A CAPITALISTIC RULE WHICH HAD FAILED, AND BIG BUSINESS WAS YELLING FOR RELIEF—AND THE BANKS WERE CLOSED. And upon the scene came FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The businessmen of Charlotte went down the line with the workers—they killed installment payments for the period—some of them even loaned money for food to those people who were indebted to them. There is no hatred or venom against those who had carried the burden for their brothers. But why, now, all this hue and cry against the New Deal? THE NEW DEAL PUT IN INSURANCE FOR BANK DEPOSITS—before Roosevelt 800 banks failed every year—Now, NONE FAIL. The New Deal put in CCC Camps immediately taking half million boys out of the depression and getting them to send money home to their folks. The New Deal gave life and sustenance to those who were down. The New Deal lifted them up and gave them a new life. The New Deal put in a moratorium on mortgages on homes and no one lost their home, and the New Deal prevented a million additional suicides of the hopeless, the poor and the depressed. The New Deal placed the worker on an even keel with the cost of living and NOT HOLDING THEM DOWN TO A FAT BACK AND MUSH DIET.

WE ARE IN A WAR, A WAR TO THE FINISH FOR DEMOCRACY AND HOPE, A DEMOCRACY WHICH MUST SURVIVE, BUT WHICH WILL NOT BE A DEMOCRACY IF THE WORKER IS ENSLAVED OR IS PUT BACK TO CONDITIONS OF 40 YEARS AGO.

My son, your son, all the sons of the workers are on the battle-fronts, or going soon. My son, your son are on the assembly lines of the plants providing the implements for their brothers over there, as are the sons of the business men, the bankers, the manufacturers, only our sons are more numerous in every branch, because there are more of us, and the family birth rate average is much greater among workers than among those of wealth and power.

THE WELDERS OF THE AXE OF DEATH TO ORGANIZED LABOR ARE NOW TOURING THE COUNTRY AT MUCH EXPENSE, appearing before organization groups, civic, commercial and academic, telling of the time loss on production lines by strikes, which are non-existent, a day or two lay-off, etc., and then their statements are refuted by administration bureaus who have the statistics. So it seems to be no time, and an ill-chosen period in our national existence to be stirring up strife between Capital and Labor. Our workers are giving their all—their skill, their brawn, their money—to keep the world safe for democracy and the Christian religion—yet, they are criticized, condemned and damned—more than 20 million—for the acts of a few, who think they are being given a raw deal and more than apt they are. But the A. F. of L. does not condone these flare ups, believing in a truce until proper settlement has been reached.

Some of those who would put the iron ring of strangulation around the neck of organized labor will rue the day of their endeavor. They are bringing their doctrines to the various state legislatures as opportunity presents by attempted passage of anti-labor laws which are in many cases admittedly unnecessary but are merely to reduce some of the previous gains of labor. Some of these tactics are even creeping into our civic administration, which the editor of the Journal hopes will not reach the point where the peace and harmony which has existed will be broken.

### Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves

FLY A BOMB TO BERLIN—PUT 10 PERCENT OF PAY IN WAR BONDS.

### WORLD WAR NO. 1 HERO ANSWERS CAPTAIN RICKENBACKER'S ATTACK ON THE WORKERS OF AMERICA

Capt. Howard Y. Williams of St. Paul, Minn., one of Minnesota's World War I heroes and Field Director of the Union for Democratic Action headed by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, challenges Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker in an open letter, "DON'T LET THEM USE YOU, EDDIE, TO DIVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO SET SOLDIERS AGAINST WORKERS. The American heroes in the shops and factories and on the farms have the same stuff in them as the boys in the hell-holes of the Pacific. Don't stuff retreat for heroes on any front.

"I CANNOT LET YOUR ATTACK ON CIVILIAN WORKERS GO UNCHALLENGED. MEN DO NOT CHANGE MATERIALLY WHEN THEY TAKE OFF OVERALLS FOR A UNIFORM. They are pretty much the same men. Of course, war tests men in a severe way. Like every other great crisis in life, it makes some men and breaks others.

"You know by experience that almost every regiment has its 'lazy-bones,' its cowards, men who are afraid to die, who are 'yellow.' But, thank God, most soldiers do their stuff and have the qualities of heroes. 'Well, Eddie, the men in the factories are the same kind of men as those in the armies. They are the brothers, fathers, friends and neighbors of men in the armies. Some are lazy, just as in the ranks of the soldiers. Some are inefficient, some shirk hard tasks and long hours. But the bulk of civilians, just like soldiers, are hard-working fellows doing their best, working 48 to 60 hours a week.

"It is because this is so, that men in the factories and on the farms see that this is a fight to preserve democracy as against autocracy and were enlisting in such numbers, that the government had to stop enlistments in order to maintain production of the instruments of war. In the conquered countries also it is the trade unions that are leading the underground fight against Fascism.

"Because of my admiration for you as a soldier, I as another soldier want to ask you, don't you think that these men who are staying at the less conspicuous tasks because of their patriotism, have also 'gained their right to citizenship' as much as you or I? Over the months they are working just as hard as any heroes in the Solomon Islands would work at the same job. Would you disenfranchise all but the few hundred thousand members of the armed forces who have seen active service?

"You emphasize the fact that soldiers are risking their lives for \$50.00 a month. It is a pitiful amount and yet the fact is that with their meals and clothes and family allotments, it is greater financial security than thousands of them have known in civilian life. Why do you want to drag all workers' pay to this level? Why not let this wealthiest country raise soldiers' pay at least to the level of workers? Where do you get the idea that men in the factories should work for \$50.00 a month, while managers should not be limited to \$87,000 a year, lest it curb their incentive? Don't we all need incentives and shouldn't we all make comparable sacrifices?

"Do you believe, as you indicated in your Detroit speech, that post-war America should guarantee the open shop although it has taken years of real struggle on the part of workers' organizations to eliminate, at least partially, this denial of majority rights? Do you believe that the Wagner Act should be abolished? "You have found in the aviation industry that by associating yourself with other leaders in the industry you have greatly benefitted. What makes you think that workers should not benefit by this same association in unions? Just as we war veterans have banded together in the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans, to protect our comrades, so workers organize themselves to protect and strengthen their standards of living. What is the difference, Eddie?

"You do not want soldiers on their return to join unions. What would you think of a man who said he wanted to fight the Japs but wouldn't join the army and wanted to be a free lance? Just as soldiers ought to join armies to be effective, so workers should join unions; and business men, trade associations; and lawyers, bar associations, etc. Some trade unions do have racketeers, just as industries have their Insults and Whitneys and just as some regiments have cowards and traitors, but our job is not to do away with union industries or regiments, but to clean out the misfits. "Do you believe that absenteeism, a practice condemned by all, is exclusively the fault of labor unions, or labor leaders? Or do you believe, with the Office of War Information, that absenteeism is a complex phenomenon with a multiplicity of causes, including bad working conditions, inadequate housing and transportation facilities, sickness, etc.?"

"Now, Eddie, don't bet short on the American people. In the trenches, in the factories, on the farms, in the offices, they measure up to the crisis. I KNOW YOU DO NOT MEAN TO FOLLOW HITLER IN CREATING SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS. BUT THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE DOING, NEVERTHELESS, IN SEEKING TO SET SOLDIERS AGAINST WORKERS. Don't let them drag your great military record in the mud in this way. In unity there is strength. DON'T LET THEM USE YOU TO DIVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

Capt. Williams went to France in the summer of 1917 as a first lieutenant in the Tenth Engineers and was among the first 25,000 American soldiers to land in France. He was promoted to captain, cited by General Pershing for conspicuous bravery and decorated by the French. The men of his regiment dedicated the regimental history to Capt. Williams in recognition of his outstanding leadership. Under Governor Elmer A. Benson of Minnesota, he served as director of the Division of Soldier Welfare for several years, supervising the spending of over \$1,000,000 a year in service to disabled war veterans.



WM. GREEN confers with REAR ADMIRAL C. H. WOODWARD (left), head of Navy's Incentive Division

# BUY Bonds NOW