

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

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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LABOR AND INDUSTRY WILL GREET WAR LABOR BOARD ORDER NO. 30 AS MOST PROGRESSIVE STEP YET TAKEN BY THIS GOV'T AGENCY

ATLANTA, GA., March 22.—Due to an upsurge of resentment against the long delays in obtaining wage increases which had been agreed upon by employers and unions, the National War Labor Board issued General Order No. 30, which will be greeted by labor and industry as the most progressive step taken by this government agency since its formation.

General Order No. 30 provides that all agreements for wage increases up to 40 cents an hour do not have to be reported to the War Labor Board. That is, employers and unions or groups of employees can adjust wage rates and raise same up to 40 cents an hour without going to the War Labor Board or even reporting same to the Board.

The Southeastern Regional War Labor Board last Thursday ordered its Director of Wage Stabilization to automatically approve all wage increases up to and not exceeding 50 cents an hour without referring same to the Board. These provisions and orders apply only to cases of wage increases arrived at through collective bargaining or voluntary increases that do not affect price ceilings on commodities of general consumption.

Unions will be required to sign Form No. 10 on increases agreed to through collective bargaining on all rates between 40 cents and 50 cents an hour. The Atlanta office of the Board has no alternative, however, but to approve increases submitted on Form No. 10, and the same cannot be denied, where the rate does not exceed 50 cents per hour.

These Orders will automatically release the Board from the tedious task of hearing these cases individually. They are beneficial in a large measure to those workers now receiving less than 40 cents an hour and to the other bracket receiving less than 50 cents an hour. It also will enable the employer of labor in these low wage brackets to increase wages in order that his employees may cope with the increased cost of living and at the same time enable the employer to maintain his force by granting just and needed increases without having to go through the process of presenting the matter to the War Labor Board, thus escaping the long delays heretofore experienced.

Officials and members of the American Federation of Labor are highly elated over the issuance of

these new rules, as this is a direct answer to an appeal made by the Southern War Labor Conference held in Atlanta on January 16 and 17. During that Conference, which was called and sponsored by the State Federations of Labor in the twelve Southeastern states, the following request was unanimously adopted and transmitted to the American Federation of Labor and to the National War Labor Board and other government agencies and officials:

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 implores 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."

This is another accomplishment of the results of our great Southern War Labor Conference beneficial to Southern Labor and industry as well as the war effort.

EDITORIAL

A THIRD PARTY IN THE SOUTH?

The Governor of Alabama and the American Christian Party now growing in strength in Texas with a benevolent nod from Jim Farley of New York, are beginning to talk of a possible "Third Party" in the South, to help defeat "THAT MAN" Franklin D. Roosevelt, or any other New Deal candidate in 1944.

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH DURING ROOSEVELT'S THREE ADMINISTRATIONS CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE SENTENCE—"FROM SIXTY CENTS A DAY TO SIXTY CENTS AN HOUR"—Therefore, this so called "Third Party" would naturally attract to itself all those who did not like this change in the economic life of our South. To the "Third Party" banner would go all the copperheads, crackpots, reactionaries, labor-haters, bundists, Roosevelt haters, and all others of similar ilk, who could not get themselves elected into the political psychopathic ward where they belong.

WE DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR 1944

The election last fall which swept so many Republicans into Congress may have been a blessing in disguise.

The attitude of Congress during the past few months has been based on a blind opposition to President Roosevelt, regardless of what the issue may be at the moment.

This has given the country a fair idea of what conditions would be and what philosophy of Government would be the order of the day if Roosevelt and the New Deal were defeated in 1944.

This opposition has concentrated on two big issues. They have voted down Roosevelt's \$25,000. ceiling of wages—thereby benefitting exactly 2,450 people while FIVE MILLION families are getting along on the \$50 a month of Army pay.

Another proposition that Congress has shown its hand in, has been the RUMPL PLAN or income taxes, which would benefit another 3,000 people, with absolutely NO BENEFIT AT ALL TO FIFTY MILLION NEW TAXPAYERS.

This is a true sample of Government under the Old Deal—and during the next campaign when a wise guy will mention New Deal and try to laugh, it would be best to mention the OLD DEAL—of oil leases, apple selling, wild markets in Wall Street and bonus marchers, and bank closings and smokeless smoke-stacks and seven million unemployed.

Republican congressmen talk big about letting industry and business take care of the returning soldiers—that Government planning is not necessary. They forget or do not want to remember that from 1929 to 1932—3 black years of depression and starvation—President Hoover called industrialists and business men to the white house time after time and pleaded with them to absorb the growing millions of unemployed—pleaded with them to do something—but the army of unemployed grew until F. D. Roosevelt came along and saved the industrialists and business from complete collapse. The New Deal saved America.

A. F. OF L. UNIONS TO DONATE "TIME OFF THE JOB" TO REBUILD STRUCTURE FOR THE RED CROSS

With six million trade unionists putting the AFL label on their contributions to the American Red Cross during March and April, thousands of other workers are making a free gift of their time and skill to assist the current drive.

A glowing report from Miami, Florida, has just described how members of the Building Trades, working after hours and on Saturdays and Sundays, transformed a dilapidated, tumble-down building into a sprightly, up-to-minute headquarters for the Miami Red Cross.

Mrs. Beatrice N. Vines, Director of the Miami Red Cross, told how the Red Cross had acquired a building "that was in terrible shape." She appealed to the Miami Building Trades and they responded in characteristic fashion.

Painters, plumbers, carpenters instantly took over. They worked at night and over the week-end pitching in with enthusiasm. Almost miraculously they made the conversion. "The Building Trades," declared Mrs. Vines, "completely renovated the building without one cent of cost to the Red Cross," saving the organization hundred of dollars. In recognition of this gift of labor, according to Sam R. Covington, Regional Director of the Labor League for Human Rights for the South Atlantic area a suitable plaque will be placed in the reception room of the headquarters in recognition of the contribution of the AFL Building Trades.

Sec. of Labor Wants Check Of Fire Hazards

Repetition of fire as disastrous as the Boston night club blaze in which 450 persons lost their lives, could easily occur in other types of occupancy in many cities and towns in the opinion of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins who has made a Nation-wide appeal to State labor department officials to check fire hazards in factories, mercantile establishments, theatres, and all places of public assembly.

"Reports indicate that many State and municipal building codes are out of date, incomplete and unrealistic under crowded modern conditions," she said. "Even in some jurisdictions where building safety regulations are adequate there is confusion or doubt as to which one of two or more agencies actually has the responsibility for enforcement, tending to nullify protection which might be afforded by applying regulations in respect to building exits, occupancy limits, structural conditions, and other important features of fire hazard control."

The pre-war machine tool industry, which did an average annual business of about \$100 millions, has grown to a war industry with a monthly output valued at \$130 millions.

The greatest mystery is death.

Pass A Law; Club Labor?

Already certain sections of Congress are whooping up the Johnson bill (H.R. 1876), which would require the employer to turn over the names of all absentees to the local drift board.

As written, the bill applies only to Navy Yard workers. This is an old anti-labor trick. It puts the bill into the House Naval Affairs Committee, headed by Rep. Vinson (Ga. polltaxer) where it can be very easily amended to include all workers.

In addition to being a complete evasion of the absenteeism problem, the bill is intended as a punitive measure, which would operate regardless of the worker's reason for absence, and even more important regardless of his skill. Incidentally, the bill is actually a reflection on the U. S. Army, which it seeks to use as a threat and a punishment. No man should go into our Army as punishment.

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

A Congressman Calls Small Newspapers Best Advertising Media

WASHINGTON.—Small dailies and weeklies are more productive advertising mediums than larger newspapers, Representative Jerry Voorhis of California told the house here recently in the course of an appeal to government agencies to allot some of their advertising funds, for bond sales or recruiting or other purposes, to the smaller publications.

"Those papers are more thoroughly read by the average person who takes them than are the large newspapers in the cities; advertising space with them would produce more per dollar expended than almost any other kind," the Californian contended.

Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves

SHAKE HANDS WITH A FIGHTING FAMILY



Thomas B. Williams, 68, machinist, war worker, union man, is the top representative of a family that's on full-time duty for victory. Williams, shown shaking hands with Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen, has five sons, a grandson, and a daughter with the armed forces. George, 24, is with the Marines in Iceland; John, 32, is a first-class machinist with the U. S. Navy at Pearl Harbor; Raymond, 33, is at an Officers' Training Camp in Philadelphia; Thomas, 40, is with the Army's Chemical Research Department. Grandson Robert, 18, is going into the Army Air Force, and Daughter Maria is with the U. S. Signal Corps.

V. F. W. POST IS TO BE HEADED BY C. L. ALBEA

City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tempore Claude L. Albea Monday night was elected commander of Stonewall Jackson Post No. 1160, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in succession to R. Fred Dunn.



CLAUDE L. ALBEA

new year were elected as follows: M. E. Moyer, senior vice commander; Joe C. Boyarsky, junior vice commander; R. Fred Dunn, quartermaster; Robert B. Hood (re-elected), chaplain; Dr. F. M. Boldridge, surgeon; L. L. Ledbetter, judge advocate; P. R. Conrad, trustee.

Installation of officers, the post decided, will be effected at a banquet Monday night, April 12, under leadership of North Carolina Department Commander R. C. Cook of Winston-Salem. C. V. Funderburk, was appointed chairman of the committee on arrangements for the installation meeting. Observer, Tuesday.

[For eleven years, Mr. Albea has been associate editor of the Labor Journal.—Ed.]

THE JOURNAL has by far the largest city circulation of any weekly published in Charlotte. Your ad in The Journal will bring results from the workers.

A Plea From Uncle Sam!



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