

Labor Is "Producing For Attack"

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE, N. C. 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.

13 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA READERS

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1943

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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ARMY PROGRAM STRENGTHENS BONDS BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND THE WORKERS AT HOME

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Intensifying its program of bringing soldiers and workers closer together, the Army has played host to union leaders at many widely separated military installations. There were no "rubber-neck" tours. Labor leaders donned fatigue uniforms and shared the hardships of training with troops so that they could carry back to the war workers a realistic story of the soldier's daily routine.

The program, sponsored by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell, Commanding General, Army Service Forces, has two objectives. They are:

1. To give war workers' representatives first-hand knowledge, gained through actual experience, of the rigorous and efficient training which American soldiers receive before they are sent into battle, and to see and use the equipment which will be used in combat.

2. To give American soldiers a chance to learn what's happening on the production front and to meet the people who produce the weapons and other equipment with which they are training and which thousands of troops are using in combat against the Axis on many fronts.

General Somervell, in one of his letters of invitation to a labor group, expressed in a few words the Army's point of view on the subject of camp visits when he wrote:

"From that visit I am confident will come a strengthening of the bonds between the military and production fronts and a renewed determination to meet and even surpass every production goal during this crucial period."

During each of the eight camp visits that have been conducted to date a spirit of comradeship and friendship between workers and soldiers has been created. In many instances, warm personal friendships have sprung up. The first consideration of the workers' representatives on their return from camp usually has been: "What can we do to help those boys in camp?"

Almost invariably, the first reaction of the workers in the various unions to this question has been an expression of determination to see to it that

those soldiers will never have to go into battle without an overwhelming superiority over weapons, ammunition and equipment.

Troops with whom the labor unionists lived and trained reacted favorably. They found that these "two-day recruits" talked their language, had similar domestic and economic problems and possessed the same basic love of freedom and democracy as themselves. Most of them, moreover, had sons or younger brothers in the armed forces.

Soldiers and workers talked about labor matters during lulls in the training route. The soldiers heard about the good work accomplished by Labor-Management Committees, and they asked questions about the unions. But it was all discussed informally over a friendly bottle of 3.2 beer or an even softer drink of soda pop.

PLANTS CHOOSE THREE INDIANA AFL AFFILIATES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Victories for the AFL in three Indiana plants were reported to AFL President William Green by Organizer Hugh Gormley, Indianapolis.

In addition to winning a majority of the votes among the employees of the Cram Manufacturing Company, makers of globes and flat maps, the election at the Continental Optical Company resulted in 203 votes for the AFL to 91 against it and the poll at the Victory Ordnance Plant, Peru, Ind., recorded 201 votes for the AFL to 38 opposed.

AGGRESSION OR PROGRESSION?

By RUTH TAYLOR

There are some soap box philosophers who say that the only way to get to the top is to be "aggressive." They are all for "standing up for your rights," "not letting any one put anything over on you." "Making your voice heard." They pooh pooh "turning the other cheek" and denounce as servile and pacifistic any one who disagrees with them.

The trouble is too many people use words without knowing what they mean. Aggression is "an unprovoked attack." Is that the kind of action that would appeal to you? Of course not! And aggressive action is not the kind that it needs to get where you want to go. Aggression does not get ahead. It scatters shot all over the surrounding horizon without any particular aim.

The word we want is not aggression—it is progression, which means "advancement." We want to progress—to go ahead steadily, securely toward a final goal of intelligent freedom, of equal rights and equal responsibilities, ready to fulfill the responsibilities that we may enjoy the rights. We want permanency of place, not temporary privileges.

We want to be friendly with those around us. We do not want advantages enforced at the cost of enmity. We know how the aggressive person annoys us. Instinctively we can sense a combative attitude and it puts us in a fighting mood. Well—it does the same thing to the other fellow, too. It is this attitude into which the professional agitator would lead those whom he wishes to arouse. It is his stock in trade because it creates hatred on both sides and thus is a weapon against unity.

Aggression is push through force. Progression is advancement through merit. One is a skyrocket, the other a tower. Our present war illustrates this perfectly. The Axis powers have used the tactics of aggression—conquering wholesale, but leaving behind them hatred and resentments which will prove their ultimate downfall. The Allies are those nations which have progressed—too slowly in many cases—but with a definite goal of ultimate freedom for all, through which they will achieve the final victory, a victory based not on force alone but on understanding that the problems of one are the problems of all.

Aggression or progression—which shall it be? Don't be aggressive. Be progressive!

PROPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES; EXPLAINING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISION

[In compliance with duties imposed by the Social Security Act, Government officials have made various studies pertaining to provisions of the Act. These studies have developed the belief that certain changes should be made in the Social Security Act in order to meet the needs of American people. Because the editor of the Charlotte Labor Journal feels that residents of this section wish to know what changes are contemplated and because he thinks that his readers are entitled to such information, this paper in co-operation with the Charlotte office of the Social Security Board is presenting a series of articles explaining the proposed revisions. Given below is the first installment of this series.—Editor.]

SOCIAL SECURITY IN WAR AND IN PEACE

The Social Security Act, now eight years old, includes two insurance programs—old-age and survivors insurance and unemployment compensation or job insurance. The Social Security Board which administers these provisions also administers the public assistance program.

Old-age and survivors insurance provides retirement benefits for insured workers when they grow too old to work and monthly payments to the survivors of insured workers who die. Under old-age and survivors insurance provisions, more than 691,000 persons are receiving monthly benefit payments amounting in all to more than 12½ million dollars per month.

Unemployment compensation which provides weekly payment to certain jobless workers is designed to tide them over until they can find other work. So far, the 51 States and Territories of this country have paid out over two billion dollars in unemployment compensation. During one year when there were very few jobs to be had, nearly 5½ million men and women received such benefits.

Under the public assistance program, around three million needy persons in the United States—the aged, the blind, and dependent children—receive regular cash payments totaling about \$66,000,000 per month.

Social insurance and public assistance have accomplished much in recent years, but the Social Security Board's biggest job lies ahead. After the war is over, millions of fighting men will return to civilian life; war production work will stop, leaving men without jobs; women now in war jobs and young people lately come to working age will be unemployed. Old people, children, and others who never

before required public assistance, will find themselves in want, unless something is done beforehand to prevent such misfortunes.

The Social Security Act, as it stands today, will not adequately meet the post-war situation. As a matter of fact, those who sponsored this law knew, in the beginning, that changes would have to be made as developments and experience pointed the way. The Social Security Board has recommended to Congress that certain revisions be made in the law. These recommendations include:

Social security for all workers and their families. Adoption of measures to protect insurance rights of workers covered by the system who enter military service.

Insurance for workers and their families against wage loss caused by disability, either permanent or temporary. A unified system of unemployment compensation that will insure adequate benefits to workers in all States and reduce the number of tax returns and wage reports now required of employers.

Extension of the present public assistance provisions to cover needy people who are ineligible for payments under existing laws. Increased Federal grants to the poorer States.

NEXT: "Wanted: Social Security For All Workers."

So long as we have held fast to voluntary principles and have been actuated and inspired by the spirit of service, we have sustained our forward progress and we have made our Labor Movement something to be respected and accorded a place in the councils of our Republic. . . . No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which otherwise, is invincible.—Samuel Gompers.

PRES. GREEN'S LABOR DAY ADDRESS SPURS WORKERS TO MEET CRITICAL TEST

TAMPA, Fla.—Victory in the war and in the peace to follow lies within the grasp of American workers, AFL President William Green told 25,000 cheering shipyard workers in his major Labor Day address here.

Speaking to the lunch-hour throng in the yards of the Tampa Shipbuilding Company and to a nation-wide radio audience, Mr. Green emphasized that this Labor Day was unique in history because America's soldiers of production celebrated it across the length and breadth of the land by working harder than ever to speed the war effort.

The call of the moment is still to labor, Mr. Green emphasized. He pointed out that the starting point of the new offensives against the enemy is in the factories, shipyards and munitions plants of this country. There is still urgent need for more planes and ships and guns to equip the fighting forces of the United Nations with the power to strike the death blow at the enemy, Mr. Green declared.

"Every new production mark that we break, every new height that we scale, is going to shorten this war and save the lives of thousands of our own American boys—our sons, our brothers, our loved ones," he said. "Labor and industry now face the supreme challenge, the supreme responsibility of advancing or retarding the final drive against our foes."

"What shall our answer be? 'If I understand the hearts and minds of America's workers, that answer will be work—hard, unremitting, inspired work to back up to the limit the fighting men who are offering their lives to defend us and to preserve everything we hold dear.'"

As the moment for final decisions draws near, Mr. Green declared, "labor stands united in support of President Roosevelt in his declaration that only unconditional surrender will be accepted" from our enemies.

Discussing the domestic problems of organized labor, Mr. Green stressed these points: 1—That the no-strike pledge must be kept religiously by labor for the duration of the war. 2—That early food prices, must be stabilized along with wages at Sept. 15, 1942, levels, as required by the Economic Stabilization Act. 3—That Government subsidies should be utilized to increase food production. 4—That decisions of the National

War Labor Board on wage adjustments should not be subject to veto by the National Mobilization Director or the Economic Stabilization Director.

5—That the cost of living, particularly and to keep consumer prices in line.

6—That the vicious Connally-Smith Act, which has served to promote strikes instead of preventing them, must be repealed by Congress at the earliest opportunity.

"We will not forget those members of Congress who voted to enact this law over the President's veto," Mr. Green warned.

Taking up post-war problems, the AFL chief urged immediate steps to set the stage for a tremendous peacetime production drive when the war ends. This act, coupled with expansion of the social security laws, will help to banish fear of want in America, he said.

"Any nation which cannot produce for the needs of peace on an even greater scale than for war is morally, spiritually and economically bankrupt," Mr. Green charged.

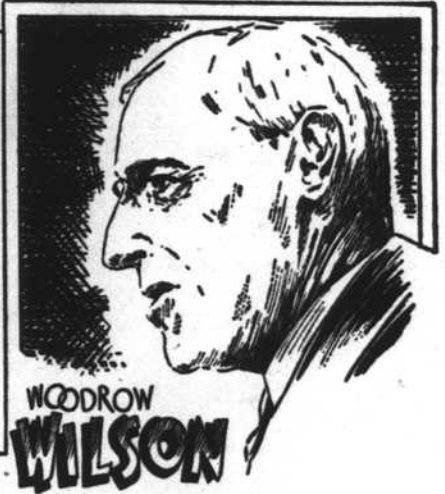
In the international sphere, Mr. Green reiterated that labor will seek full representation at the peace conferences to insist on a just peace which will be lasting. He concluded: "These are vast undertakings. But we can succeed if America joins with other nations of good-will in the execution of a clear-cut policy and program which will outlaw and abolish war for all time. This is the supreme goal, the cause which transcends all others in our minds. We must never allow prejudice, hate or narrow isolationism to destroy our golden opportunity of attaining it."

"Workers of America, on this fateful Labor Day, I appeal to you to unite into an unconquerable army for the winning of the war and the winning of the peace."

JOURNAL READERS PATRONIZE JOURNAL ADVERTISERS

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN CLERICAL WORKERS WHO ARE MARRIED DOUBLED BETWEEN 1920 AND 1930 - FROM 9.1% TO 18.3%.



ON JULY 4th, 1914: "LIBERTY DOES NOT CONSIST IN MERE DECLARATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN. IT CONSISTS IN THE TRANSLATION OF THOSE DECLARATIONS INTO DEFINITE ACTIONS!"



THE NATIONAL MARITIME UNION IN 1940 SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE STANDARD FRUIT CO. WHICH WAS PRINTED IN 3 LANGUAGES - ARABIC, ENGLISH, SPANISH.



THE UNION LABEL SPEAKS THE UNION MAN'S LANGUAGE. IT TELLS HIM THAT A PRODUCT WAS MADE BY ANOTHER UNION MAN LIKE HIMSELF, INTERESTED IN PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF ORGANIZED LABOR. SPEAK UP AND DEMAND THIS LABEL WHEN YOU BUY!

A Junior Home Front Soldier



This youngster makes sure that the housewives in his neighborhood get their waste fats in the local salvage collection. Collecting waste fats is an important job these days because they contain 10 percent glycerine which is necessary to the manufacture of nitroglycerine, dynamite, and cordite. Two pounds of waste fats produce enough glycerine to fire five 37-mm. antitank shells.

Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves
Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves

THE PLEDGE OF EVERY LOYAL A. F. OF L. UNIONIST
"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands—One Nation, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for All!"

Kaiser's AFL Workers Win 26 Awards

WASHINGTON—Twenty-six workers whose ideas have contributed to the amazing production records established by the Henry J. Kaiser shipyards made a clean sweep of national production honors just announced by War Production Drive Headquarters. The Drive's Board for Individual Awards bestowed 12 certificates and 14 honorable mentions for production ideas submitted through the Labor-Management Committees of the Portland and Vancouver yards. These committees include representatives of the Metal Trades Council (AFL) and the Kaiser management.

MAKE PAYDAY VICTORY DAY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL is the only paper published in the Piedmont section of North Carolina representing the A. F. of L. It is endorsed by the North Carolina Federation of Labor, Charlotte Central Labor Union and various locals. THE JOURNAL HAS A RECORD OF 13 YEARS CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION AND SERVICE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT.