

“WIN THE WAR IN '44”

Free Labor Will Out-Produced Nazi Slaves

—A. F. L. SLOGAN FOR 1944

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE AND For a Weekly Its Readers Represent the LARGEST ORGANIZING 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.

YEARS OF
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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1944

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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TWO YEAR EXTENSION OF OPA ASKED FOR BY PRES. WM. GREEN; WARNS POST WAR PRICE DANGERS

A. F. OF L. CHIEF CONDEMNS PROFITEERS AND GOUGERS SEEKING TO WRECK PRICE CONTROL BY WEAKENING AMENDMENTS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged Congress to extend the Emergency Price Control Act for two years to protect consumers from war profiteering and post-war inflation. Appearing before the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, Mr. Green warned of a post-war “danger zone” in which prices for the necessities of life may shoot sky-high, as after the last world war, unless strict Government controls are enforced. Unless this is done, he said, American workers now investing a large part of their savings in War Bonds will not receive full value, dollar for dollar, when the war ends and the bonds are redeemed.

Mr. Green offered the following program for enactment:

- 1—Extension of the Price Control Act without change for two years after the war.
- 2—Congressional support of increased appropriation for effective enforcement of price and rent control.
- 3—Provision of subsidies essential to continued price stability of key cost of living commodities.
- 4—A restoration of the relationships between prices and wages which existed September 15, 1942, as absolutely essential to make the law work equitably and build the morale of American workers to the highest degree of efficiency.

The AFL chief continued:

“The issue before Congress involving the future of price control is now drawn. Gigantic pressures are at work to secure the emasulation of price control and to permit wartime profit gains through price increases at the expense of consumers—workers in industry and trade, white collar workers, farm workers and wives and dependents of soldiers at the front. “The drive against continued price control does not take the form of open opposition to the price control itself. Every worker, every housewife, every soldier's wife is so deeply convinced that price control is necessary to protect the budget on which rests their livelihood that no enemy of price control has dared come out and attack it openly. “Instead, the drive is on to make price control unworkable and ineffective through piecemeal technical

changes, complicated enough to escape the understanding of the ordinary man on the street. Ineffective price control is worse than no price control at all. Price control which remains on the books but permits creeping price increases, or price control which is impossible of enforcement and understanding by every housewife and every consumer, would be nothing short of a gigantic fraud. “It has been urged that price control would be broken up among a number of agencies in place of the single and coordinated controls now placed in the hands of OPA. This would breed chaos. “There is a growing awareness on the part of wage earners throughout the nation that unimpairment continuation of price control is a matter of foremost importance to every wage earner. Witnesses from communities in different parts of the country, from the midwest, south and north will testify here directly on behalf of labor in their own cities and towns. These are not isolated examples and are not expressions of picked individuals.”

Mr. Green then delivered a smashing attack upon the most flagrant war profiteers who have led the fight against continued and effective price control. He declared: “Reasonable profit on investment is essential to the operation of business enterprise. Confiscatory administration of price control which denies a manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer his reasonable return would be strongly opposed by the American Federa-

LABOR'S PRODUCTION EFFORT IS CALLED “REMARKABLE”

WILKES-BARRE, Pa.—The record of organized labor in the war effort was called “remarkable” in an address by Chairman Sylvester Garrett of the Third Regional WLB before the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor Convention here.

“Many of us who have been interested in organized labor over a period of years,” he said, “have observed a tendency in certain influential quarters to emphasize greatly the alleged shortcomings of labor and to minimize its virtues and accomplishments. “Those critics are fully refuted not only by the Truman Committee report, but also by the remarkable record of organized labor in the war effort,” he continued. “The mountains of munitions, tanks and planes now stacked up in England awaiting the invasion of Nazi Europe were created by American labor, most of under the leadership and direction of organized labor.”

UNBELIEVABLE MILK POURED DOWN DRAIN

ATLANTA, May 1.—The Georgia Milk Producers Confederation, Inc., has poured out 1,000 gallons of milk each Monday for the last three weeks, says Manager James D. Gay, because of a Government regulation limiting deliveries to six days weekly.

Restrictions on milk deliveries were ordered by the Office of Defense Transportation last September to conserve gasoline, tires and equipment. As a result, said Gay yesterday, his firm has had to pour its milk receipts for the last three Sunday—3,000 gallons—down the drain.

Gay asserted the firm, a co-operative agency handling milk for 160 farmers in nineteen counties, lacked both the storage space and equipment to deliver two days' receipts in one day.

Buddy Poppies Are Symbol Of Living Courage

Wear a Buddy Poppy on Memorial Day! It is not a new appeal! It is one which, to each and every American, has become continually familiar through the years—poignant tribute to our hero dead and to those living heroes who offer so gallantly their all on the high altar of patriotism.

No one of us need be reminded that these small scarlet blossoms are more than merely flowers to wear on our lapel. They have a significance which reaches deep into our hearts. They are symbols of living courage.

All the Buddy Poppies offered in this annual sale are made by disabled war veterans in government hospitals. Most of the poppy makers saw service in World War I. But not all. There is, for example, the slim cheerful lad who tells you of his five months in Alaska—altogether two years served with the infantry, he says—and grins as he shows you the “neat job” he is turning out now in the way of poppies.

Patronize Journal Advertisers

N. C. COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN LIMELIGHT NOW, AS IT PREPARES FOR 48-HR. WEEK

RALEIGH, May 3.—The cotton textile industry in North Carolina, one of the principal centers of the industry in the nation, is in the limelight now as it prepares to comply with the nation-wide 48-hour work week order which becomes effective May 14, Dr. J. S. Dorton, State director of the War Manpower Commission, announces.

Cotton textiles are now of such prime importance to the overall war effort that it has become necessary to invoke this order in an all-out effort to step up individual production in an industry, some divisions of which are at the highest production peak. Employers and employees alike, Dr. Dorton states, should take just pride in that this industry now ranks with, and in some cases even surpasses in importance, those vital industries manufacturing munitions and armaments of war. It will require the combined efforts of both, working every hour possible, to meet the schedules that have been set for this year, he emphasizes.

All manufacturers of cotton textile products which contain more than 50 per cent cotton are expected, on or before May 14, to have scheduled each employee in each department on a

full 48-hour work week, or to have determined that it will require the releasing of some workers for work in other departments of their respective plants, or for work in other plants.

A release schedule, showing the numbers and occupations of these employees and the dates they can be absorbed or released, is to be filed with and subject to acceptance by the United States Employment Service (USES) of the War Manpower Commission (WMC). If an employer is unable to so schedule all employees for absorption or release, he should extend to all employees and departments the full 48-hours of work, or the maximum hours possible under 48 and file a request for exceptions for the remainder of the 48 hours with the USES or with the appropriate area director of WMC, Dr. Dorton advises.

Navy Offers Movies To Local AFL Unions

WASHINGTON—D. C.—Official combat movies taken by Navy, Marine, Army and Coast Guard cameramen and especially prepared for “restricted” showings to war workers and their families in plants and at union meetings are now available at a nominal charge to local unions.

Among the notable films which can be obtained for such showings are “Battle For The Beaches,” picturing amphibious warfare from Dieppe to the Marshalls; “December Seventh,” which shows the bombing and rebuilding of Pearl Harbor, and “The Life And Death of The Hornet,” a saga of a famous fighting ship.

To obtain these films, secretaries of local unions are advised to write to the Industrial Incentive Division, U. S. Navy, 2118 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Traffic Signals Are Life Savers

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE FAMOUS SECTION 7A OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT (NRA) WHICH LEGALLY RECOGNIZED THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF WORKERS: “EMPLOYEES SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY THROUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING”

THIS PAY DAY—BUY BONDS!

THE NUMBER OF SELF-EMPLOYED IN THE U.S. DROPPED FROM 5,900,000 IN 1940 TO 3,500,000 IN 1943

THE UNION LABEL IS YOUR GUIDE TO GOODS MADE UNDER DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS. IF AND WHEN YOU BUY BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL. LOOK FOR THIS LABEL IN THE HATS YOU BUY.

THE DEPRESSION OF 1929-32 SAW A DROP OF 1/3 IN INCOME PER CAPITA WHILE LIVING COSTS WERE CUT BY ONLY 20%.

tion of Labor. With this in mind, I must say in all fairness that during recent months the most publicized and most violent claims of undue hardship resulting from price ceilings have come from quarters in which wartime profiteering was most flagrant. At the same time specific instances indicate that requests for just and proper relief have resulted in speedy and satisfactory adjustment of OPA procedures and regulations.

“Labor cannot be silent about brazen wartime profiteering in all branches of industry and trade which is passed over in knowing silence in all public policy discussions of economic stabilization. Has not the Senate Investigating Committee headed by Senator Truman brought out the fact that while the bulk of war business has been given to 100 corporations, only 9 of these have been free of excessive profits in 1942? Has not the Truman Committee shown that for the remaining 91 corporations war profits reached all the way from 25 to 600 times normal peacetime profits?”

“These and other reports on profits of war contractors speak for themselves. They are being dealt with through renegotiation procedures. Far more important is the fact that excessive profits are rapidly gaining in the production and distribution of civilian goods. When we consider the overall picture of corporate profits—and I don't mean, mind you, profits before taxes, I mean profits after taxes—we can readily understand why the Director of Economic Stabilization and other officials directing top policy have decided as a standard procedure that all corporate profit information be kept from the public through rigid censorship.

“It is a fact that reports on corporate profits compiled by the government for specific industries have been withheld from publication. This information had been gathered through public channels. The public is certainly entitled to have access to it. Could it be that those responsible for the top economic stabilization policies felt that mere publication of these facts would challenge the fairness of the overall economic stabilization policy, which leans so heavily on rigid wage control while evading many basic price and profit issues?”

The spokesman demanded full retention of the rent control program as part of the OPA. He denounced “real estate interests seeking to wreck this program.”

He informed the Senatorial Committee that the AFL, the CIO and the Railway Brotherhoods had joined in urging Congress to renew the Price Control Act without weakening amendments.

Other witnesses appearing at the public hearings for the AFL included Boris Shishkin, staff economist; Mrs. Mae Lowe, President of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor; Edward H. Weyler, Secretary of Labor, and Joseph J. McComb, of Camden, N. J., representing the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association.

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS IN ARREARS SEND IN A CHECK

OUR SNAPSHOTS

LOOK GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT—Hollywood, Calif.—One of the most attractive Victory Gardens of the season will be that in the film musical based on the life of Norah Bayes. Here Emily Smith appears as “Pearl.”

ALL AMERICA is whistling “I Go for a Man Who Wears an Adam Hat” with “Lanny and Ginger,” the famous jingle singers. They are one of the best known teams of its kind, and this is the first time a commercial jingle has become a hit tune up and down the country.

CALLING CARD—New York—While action flares in the South Pacific, Coast Guard patrol sub-busters keep a vigilant lookout for spring offensives by enemy U-boats in the Atlantic. Here a depth charge is hurled from the deck of a Coast Guard cutter.

Benay Venuta, famed singing star of stage, screen, and radio, who has traveled 100,000 miles in the United States since Pearl Harbor for USO and Red Cross recreational units, entertaining at army camps, navy bases, and service hospitals.

“LOVELY TO LOOK AT . . . delightful to know—that's Miss America,” naturally. Here Rosemary LaPlanche, winner of the beauty contest at Atlantic City last summer, refreshes with a “Coke” between scenes for her new picture, “Pretty Girl.” Pretty girl, too, isn't she?

BUILT FOR HEAVY WORK—This big Fruehauf Carryall trailer, belonging to Hugh Govan of Port Angeles, Wash., was one of several that helped haul heavy equipment and supplies to the road-building operations along the Alaskan highway.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL is the only weekly 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.