

-- "WIN THE WAR IN '44" --

Free Labor Will Out-Produde Nazi Slaves

—A. F. OF 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 BUYING POWER in Charlotte



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

VOL. XIV. NO. 12

YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1944

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

A. F. OF L. DRIVES FOR KILGORE BILL; DEMANDS CONGRESS ACT NOW; WAKE UP YOUR CONGRESSMAN!

GREEN WARNS OF CHAOS UNLESS PLANS ARE READY TO COPE WITH SUDDEN PEACE — BILL VITAL TO HELP PROVIDE JOBS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor spear-headed a vigorous drive to jolt Congress into immediate action on reconversion legislation so that the nation may be ready to undertake peace production should the war in Europe end suddenly.

Concerned by reports that Congress intended to mark time until after election so that members facing re-election contests might spend all their time campaigning, President William Green served notice that labor will not abide such dangerous procrastination.

Through the AFL's legislative representatives, he prevailed upon Senator Robert R. Reynolds, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, to call an immediate meeting of that committee to consider the Kilgore Bill and other pending legislation dealing with post-war readjustments.

When it appeared that a committee quorum would not respond to this appeal, Senat Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley joined with Senator Reynolds in sending another imperative telegram setting a meeting for Aug. 3.

Meanwhile, Mr. Green called upon all AFL affiliates and members to urge Senators and Representatives to support the Kilgore Bill. In a public statement he said that the Federation endorses the Kilgore Bill because it seeks to protect human rights as well as property rights during the post-war emergency.

Fears have been expressed that should Germany collapse and surrender, as some military strategists predict, more than ten million workers would find themselves unemployed overnight.

"Immediate passage of the Kilgore

bill is vital to help provide jobs and insurance for demobilized servicemen and unemployed war workers," Mr. Green said.

"We call upon the members of Congress to act quickly on this important legislation because time is running out. If the war against Germany should end suddenly, before we have made legislative and economic provision for that contingency, the home front would be plunged into chaos."

"Right now we are wholly unprepared for peace. We have no plans for coping with unemployment, with shutdown of war factories or with the problems of reconversion. If peace catches us thus unprepared, an economic panic jeopardizing any possibility of post-war security and reconstruction may ensue."

"Therefore, I urge Congress to remain in session until final action can be taken upon this basis legislation."

Senator Barkley, striking a similar note of warning, said in his telegram: "It is imperative that members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee return to Washington at once in

THE 40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE NOW REACHED UNDER THE FEDERAL WAGE-HOUR LAW

By FOREST H. SHUFORD

Commissioner of Labor, Raleigh, N. C.

July marked the achievement of another goal for the working men and women of America, for in this month every man and every woman who labors in interstate commerce or is engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce and is covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Law became legally entitled to receive at least \$16 for a workweek of 40 hours.

Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions has signed the orders under which the last of the 21-million workers covered by the Wage-Hour Act are guaranteed minimum

order that proper consideration may be given to vital and indispensable legislation dealing with reconversion, demobilization and surplus property disposition, bills concerning which are now pending in Military Affairs Committee."

This committee is now considered the bottleneck on post-war legislation, with an undercurrent of hostility prevailing between sponsors of rival measures. Besides the Kilgore bill, there is pending a bill sponsored by Senators George and Murray which is not regarded as favorably as the Kilgore bill by labor.

Senator Kilgore joined with Rep. Emmanuel Celler, sponsor of the same bill in the House, in urging immediate action. They declared that to gain full employment in peace time "we must find 15 million more jobs than were available in 1939."

"If we plan only for pre-war levels of production, we shall fail," their statement said. "We must produce at least 60 to 100 per cent more than in 1939. If we do not plan for full employment, any other plans we make will be swept away in the tide of unemployment and depression."

The two wage orders which bring employees

in the last few branches of industry up to that minimum became effective July 17th. The orders cover some 2-million men and women, and directly affect approximately 110,000 who had been receiving less than 40 cents an hour.

That hourly rate may seem unbelievably low with today's manpower shortages and with employers seeking authority to raise their workers' pay, yet the activities of the Divisions this year will result in the payment of more than \$17-million to workers whose wages were illegally withheld. \$231,503.22 of this amount is payable to workers in North Carolina. More significant, more than one-quarter of the case we have handled this year involve failure to pay a minimum wage which up to now has ranged from 30 to 40 cents an hour.

When Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938 it set October 24, 1945 as the date when all covered workers in interstate commerce should receive not less than 40 cents an hour. Congress also provided for the appointment of industry committees which, prior to 1945, could recommend a minimum above the statutory 30 cents, but not higher than 40 cents, industry by industry, after reviewing economic and competitive conditions within each industry and after making sure that an increased minimum wage would not substantially curtail employment.

CHARLOTTE AND GASTONIA CENTRAL LABOR UNIONS IN SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

On Sunday, July 30, a joint meeting of the Charlotte and Gastonia Central Labor Unions was held in the Labor Temple in Charlotte for the establishment of a joint Organizing Committee to assist all A. F. of L. Local Unions in organizing their trade in these cities.

Gastonia was present in force under the able leadership of G. B. Huss, President of the Gastonia Central Labor Union and a member of Carpenters Local Union. Gastonia C. L. U. is very active and is doing a real job of organizing in their jurisdiction and say that all they need is time and a little cooperation from Charlotte in organizing in Mecklenburg County; they will take care of Gaston County.

While Charlotte was well represented a large number of affiliated Unions were conspicuous by their absence. We realize that most of this "absenteeism" was caused by delegates being out of town on WAR WORK; but we know that part of it was due to the spirit of "let George do it." "Jack" Moore, President of the Charlotte C. L. U. is doing a fine job of organization in this area being assisted by a very active Organizing Committee, with T. D. Sutton as Chairman.

Several representatives of National and International Unions were present and addressed the meeting. Among them were: Curtis Sims, Bakery Workers, "Bill" Brown, Textile Workers and Henry Adair, Electrical Workers.

W. M. Witter, Editor of the Charlotte Labor Journal and a member of the I. T. U. for some 50 years made a very interesting talk on the difficulties of organization "then and now."

The Joint Organizing Committee was formed with G. B. Huss and "Jack" Moore as Co-chairmen, members of the committee are to be appointed by the Chairmen after a meeting on August 14th in Greensboro, N. C. This meeting will be held in the King Cotton Hotel at 8 P. M. and all delegates to the North Carolina Federation Convention from these two cities are urged to be present. Frank Fenton, Director of Organization, George Googe, Southern Director, and C. A. Fink, President North Carolina Federation are expected to attend this meeting as well as Representatives of National and International Unions.



This is Seaman I/e Melachi H. Rich, of Quitman, Georgia. He is only 18 but a veteran of action in the Mediterranean. The destroyer escort on which he served was torpedoed and he was hit in the spine. For weeks he could not move his feet but now can move one foot pretty well. Four buddies are in the hospital. They were all rescued by a sister ship.



The going is tough in the jungles of Rendova in the Solomon Islands. Marine Pfc. David Phelps of Bridgeport, Conn., was thrown from a reconnaissance car and received a fractured right leg and compound fracture of the left. But he's doing all right as you can see here. Phelps is twenty-two.



A smile no Nazi torpedo can wipe off. Marion Porter, Steward 3/c, who hails from Spartanburg, S. C., was in the water three hours after his ship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. A 20 mm shell case was thrown against his leg when the tin fish hit and fractured it badly. Now he is waiting for his injury to heal so that he can get another crack at the Axis.

DUKE POWER CO. AND I. B. E. ARE IN AGREEMENT

An agreement between the Duke Power Company and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represented by Local Unions B-355, Burlington, N. C.; B-407, Greensboro, N. C.; B-745, Durham, N. C.; B-913, Winston-Salem, N. C.; B-957, Greenville, S. C., and B-962, Charlotte, N. C., for certain classifications has been consummated, subject to the approval of the War Labor Board.

The agreement provides for the return of war veterans to their jobs, vacations and sick leave with pay and wage increases.

This agreement is in fact a renewal of an agreement as the Duke Power Company and the IBEW have been in agreement through B-962, for some of their employees, since 1937.

IT HAPPENED

An attractive young widow, after burying her husband called on the insurance company to collect the \$50,000 policy her husband had left. After endorsing the check she turned to the manager and said in all seriousness, "Believe it or not I'd give \$20,000 of this to have him back."

AMERICAN HEROES

BY LEFF



Pvt. Edward L. Rice, Long Beach, California, was on the receiving end of enemy hand grenades at Kwajalein Island. He removed his weapon from its mount, ran forward and raked the Japanese front line trenches with fire. He has won the Distinguished Service Cross. We must earn victory; buy more War Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Department

Local Workers Ask For Bargaining Rights With IBEW

Employees of Southern Electric Service Company in Greensboro and Charlotte, N. C., have requested the IBEW to represent them as bargaining agents. Approximately 100 per cent in their Greensboro branch are now members of the IBEW and a large number of the employees in the Charlotte branch have expressed their desire to become members of the IBEW. The N. L. R. B. will be requested to hold an election in the near future.

N. C. PRIORITIES MANPOWER COM. SETS "CEILINGS" FOR EMPLOYMENT

RALEIGH, Aug. 1.—The Manpower Priorities Committee for North Carolina has established Manpower Priorities and Employment Ceilings for 1415 firms in essential activities in the State as a result of the six meetings held in six administrative areas recently, Dr. J. S. Dorton, State Manpower director, announces.

Last week the committee established priorities and ceilings for 195 firms in the Asheville Administrative area; 550 firms in the Charlotte Administrative area, and 306 firms in the Winston-Salem - Greensboro - High Point area. Previously the committee had fixed the status of 159 firms in the Raleigh administrative area; 100 firms in the Elizabeth City-New Bern area, and 168 in the Wilmington area.

State Federation Convention At Greensboro, N. C.

The N. C. State Federation of Labor Convention will be held at Greensboro, N. C., August 14, 15 and 16, in the King Cotton Hotel, opening at 10 A. M. Monday morning.

From the number of credentials received it will be one of the largest conventions ever held. There have been quite a number of new affiliations since the Winston-Salem Convention last year and it is reported the Typographical organization will be represented in the convention by delegates from several locals in the state.

The Labor Journal also is informed that organized labor in Reidsville has been doing some fine work recently, as they have organized a Central Labor Union and the charter will be installed Thursday night August 3rd.

Charlotte will send one of the largest delegations to Greensboro in its history.

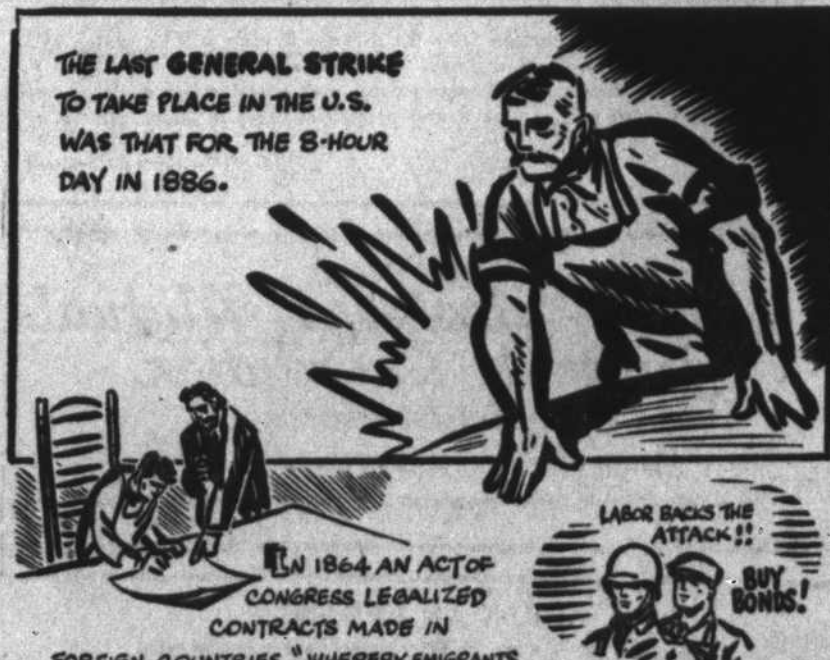
WHERE IS YOUR SHARE?

Of the eight million tons of paper needed for salvage in 1944, the War Production Board says 38 per cent is in hiding in American homes and farms, while the other 62 per cent is to be found in the files and store rooms of American industry. If the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts don't find those home-hidden hoards of waste paper before next fall, school children hope to dig them out.

Subscribe for The Journal.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE LAST GENERAL STRIKE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE U.S. WAS THAT FOR THE 8-HOUR DAY IN 1886.



IN 1864 AN ACT OF CONGRESS LEGALIZED CONTRACTS MADE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES "WHEREBY EMIGRANTS SHALL PLEDGE THE WAGES OF THEIR LABOR FOR A TERM NOT EXCEEDING TWELVE MONTHS, TO REPAY THE EXPENSES OF THEIR IMMIGRATION."



IT IS TO YOUR OWN INTEREST TO BUY UNION LABEL GOODS. LOOK FOR THIS LABEL WHEN YOU BUY A MAT.



Free Labor Will Out-Produde Nazi Slaves
BUY WAR BONDS