

Back Up The Boys -- With Bonds

Free Labor Will Out-Produde Nazi Slaves

THE A. F. OF L. SLOGAN FOR 1944

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County

PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY IN ITS ENTIRETY

For a Weekly Its Readers Represent the LARGEST BUYING POWER in Charlotte

Back 'em Up!
KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

The Charlotte Labor Journal

KEEP FAITH WITH THEM!

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

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.

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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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PRES. GREEN OFFERS TO RESIGN FOR SAKE OF LABOR UNITY; KILLS POLITICAL ACTION GROUP

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 28.—President William Green, in a fervent bid for union with the CIO and United Mine workers, offered today to quit the helm of the American Federation of Labor if it would lead to labor solidarity. Green, deploring the reception accorded to his other pleas for unity by CIO President Philip Murray, and asserting he had been subjected to unprecedented attack by UMWA President John L. Lewis, told the AFL convention he would be "willing to go" as president after 20 years in office, if it would bring about a combination of forces.

The convention voted to reopen negotiations, if possible, with the CIO and miners, which collapsed during 1943.

Combined membership of the big three groups would total about 13 million workers.

The convention took the step over the protest of John Marchiano, president-elect of the AFL Progressive Miners, who said Lewis "hasn't changed his spots" and that the 35,000 members of that AFL group "won't stop fighting" against absorption by the Lewis-dominated union.

The AFL in effect "buried" resolutions which would have set up a "political action group" similar to CIO's PAC. It sent to its executive committee, without a word of debate, the proposals that AFL organize to get out the labor vote.

On the controversial wage stabilization question, the convention approved the naming of a committee to call upon President Roosevelt and request that he immediately revise policy to allow for increased living costs.

The convention asked for an executive order "to realistically adjust

the Little Steel formula" to permit employers and workers to make voluntary wage adjustments without submission to the National War Labor board.

George Meany, an AFL member of the WLB, said the AFL had refused to go along with AFL members in a joint effort to break the Little Steel formula, on which the administration stabilization policy is built.

Referring to the WLB decision in the CIO-Steel Workers cases last Saturday, Meany said, "The CIO also failed to break the formula but did get a few crumbs from the board in the form of a few cents here and there."

Meany, while he did not clarify to whom he referred, said further:

"We call it the refinement of cruelty when we hear some public official talk about '60,000,000 postwar jobs and at the same time doesn't see that this evil (wage policy) is corrected."

"Anyone who says this can be done without providing for postwar wages and purchasing power is telling the people of the country a damnable untruth."

CIG. SHORTAGE IS NOT DUE TO NEED OF LABOR

RALEIGH. — Falling fags in the United States and with the boys over there cannot be charged to manpower policies, regulations or shortages.

While every industry is plagued with manpower shortages in trying to keep up with production schedules, cigarette manufacturing firms in North Carolina, not only have held their own, but have actually increased the numbers of workers during the past two and one-half years, it is revealed by Dr. J. S. Dorton, State director of the War Manpower Commission.

"Our records show that in May, 1942, the three big cigarette manufacturers with four groups of plants in North Carolina, employed 16,459 workers," said Dr. Dorton. "One year later, in May, 1943, the number employed was 17,187, an increase of 728 workers. In March, 1944, the number had increased to 18,176, and in May the number dropped 40 to 18,136 workers.

"In July of this year, the first

month of the Priorities Referral Plan, these same tobacco firms had 18,259 workers, a slight increase from the previous March and May, and this month, November, the numbers of workers had increased to 18,482, or 223 more than in July of this year and 2,023 more than in May, 1942.

LOCALS HOLD BONDS

WASHINGTON. — Reports to the Treasury indicate that more than 7,500 international and local unions of the CIO now have substantial portions of their funds invested in war bonds. These investments range from a few hundred dollars for the smaller local unions to more than \$500,000 representing purchases of the United Steel Workers of America.

TRAINING FILMS RELEASED

WASHINGTON. — The United States Office of Education announced the release of 14 new motion pictures to aid in training war production workers in vocational schools and war industries. Topics covered include aircraft maintenance, pipefitting, welding and engineering.

IT'S LABOR'S WAR — LET'S FIGHT WITH PAY DOLLARS IN WAR BONDS.

SOLID FRONT SOUGHT BY A.F.L.; RESOLUTIONS ASKING RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS SUBMITTED

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 21. — The American Federation of Labor reached out for the elusive thread of labor solidarity at home and abroad yesterday in resolutions submitted to the annual convention and expressions of President William Green.

In the national field, union with the CIO—which walked out of the AFL fold in 1937—appeared still to be a dream of the parent organization, whose executive council urged that the negotiations abandoned in 1943 be picked up again, if possible.

CIO President Philip Murray, in convention in Chicago last week, held out his hand to the rank and file of the AFL but made clear he had little intention of accepting overtures of the leaders.

Despite this, resolutions calling for resumption of negotiations were to be submitted to the AFL Convention for action. These included mainly those offered by David Dubinsky and his Ladies Garment Workers. In addition to peace with the CIO, Dubinsky had offered one authorizing renewal of talks with John L. Lewis and the now Independent United Mine Workers about returning to the AFL.

The Resolutions Committee's recommendations on these subjects were expected to carry considerable weight with the 600 delegates.

In the international field, President Green extended an invitation to all world-wide labor groups to join with the AFL in battling for an enduring peace. He said the AFL would demand a place at the peace table.

He made this appeal after a talk yesterday by Arthur Horner, sent to the convention as a fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress. Horner says he is a member of the Central Committee of the British Communist Party.

Horner was outspoken in praise of Russian contribution to the winning of the war, referred to the prevailing unity of trade unions in America and Britain brought about by the productive burdens of the war, and asked that this unity be broadened to include the Soviets in the post-war period.

COL. A. L. FLETCHER COMMENTS ON N. C. WAGE RATE; NEXT TO THE LOWEST IN UNITED STATES

RALEIGH, Nov. 28.—Using figures which have just recently become available on war-time employment and wages, the Unemployment Compensation Commission has issued a bulletin which shows, among other things, that average weekly wages in North Carolina are next to the lowest in the country. Only South Carolina shows a lower average wage. The average weekly wage for North Carolina is given as \$26.51. For the United States as a whole, the average is \$40.77.

In commenting on this report, Col. A. L. Fletcher, U. C. C. Chairman, said "the low wage scale in North Carolina partly accounts for the fact that this state pays the lowest average weekly benefit amount in unemployment compensation, since the size of the benefit check is determined by the amount of previous earnings. The present benefit schedule in the law is also partly accountable for the relatively small amounts of benefits that are payable in North Carolina," Fletcher said. "On the other hand, in proportion to the number of workers it protects, this state's unemployment fund is thought to be one of the most substantial state reserves."

The bulletin analyzing state and national wage data which has been prepared by S. F. Campbell, head of the Commission's Bureau of Research and Statistics, makes use of figures reported for 1943 to the Social Security Board from the various state employment security agencies.

It reveals that weekly wages in Alaska and Michigan averaged more than \$50; those for California, Connecticut, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon and Washington averaged more than \$45. At the other end of the scale is North Carolina with average weekly wages of \$26.51. Although wages in Arkansas appear to be slightly lower, the difference is thought by Mr. Campbell to be more statistical than real. The wage figure of \$24.21 for South Carolina alone is clearly below that for this state.

Comparisons between North Carolina industries and those for the United States as a whole may be drawn from the data. Mr. Campbell's analysis states that notwithstanding wage

increases of more than half in North Carolina during the past three years, the state average wage in manufacturing is still 39 per cent below the national level.

In the manufacture of paper, the production of which on a large scale is of recent origin in this state, the wage scale compares favorably with that of the nation, due possibly to the employment of skilled labor of a special type. The average weekly wage in the manufacture of tobacco appears higher for North Carolina than for the nation. This may be accounted for by the fact that in the statistical records of this state, the lower wages paid for leaf processing carried on by independent tobacco dealers is not included with tobacco manufacturing.

Except for these two industrial categories of paper and tobacco, the nearest approach in this state to the national average in wages is shown for the manufacture of transportation equipment, in which the state wage level is only eight per cent below the national. The greatest contrast between state and national wage levels is found in the manufacture of stone and clay products. These are largely brick, tile and cement products.

In the manufacture of textile products, which accounts for more than 40 per cent of all North Carolina employment reported to the Unemployment Compensation Commission, average weekly wages are almost four per cent above the average for all types of labor. However, these state textile wages are 12 per cent below the national average in textile products manufacturing; and are 56 per cent below the national average for labor in all manufacturing industries.

USE THE PAYROLL PLAN—10% EACH WEEK FOR WAR BONDS

FUND OF MILLION DOLLARS STARTS OFF WITH \$100.00

NEW YORK.—Six weeks before the official opening of its campaign for a minimum of \$1,000,000, the Free Trade Union Committee has already received a contribution of \$100 from A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, announced Matthew Wolf, president of the Committee.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters thus becomes the first of the hundreds of national and international AFL unions to extend its concrete support to the work of the Committee.

The Committee was set up by the Labor League for Human Rights in order to strengthen and re-establish democratic trade unions abroad.

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A WARNING TO MEMBERS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS SECTION AS TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

By J. A. MOORE, President
Charlotte Central Labor Union

In recent months the states of California, Arkansas and Florida have been in the midst of heated campaigns on the question of the adoption of amendments to the state constitution in each state which outlaws the union shop agreement between employers and their employees. The amendment was defeated in California. It was adopted in Florida by less than 14,000 majority, and adopted in Arkansas by 7,000 majority.

These amendments were introduced into the above states and sponsored by a Texas aggregation known as "The Christian American Association." The leader in this aggregation is said to be U. S. Senator Lee O'Daniels, who tried so desperately hard to defeat Roosevelt in the recent campaign. His henchmen who direct the campaigns for the amendments are Van Muse and Val Shterman, both of Fort Worth, Texas. These men are recognized as high-pressure men, and it is known that they obtain great sums of money from rich corporations and monopolies with which to carry on their campaigns against the Trade Union Movement.

It now appears from recent developments that this crowd is coming into North Carolina for the purpose

of agitating the adoption of such an amendment by this state. These men are shrewd workers, and are successful in deceiving many good men and women and getting them interested in the promotion and support of this so-called "right-to-work" amendment. It is the duty of our organizations in this city and state to fully acquaint our friends among the public as to the evils of such proposals. Of course, there are some people who will welcome an opportunity to do all they can against Organized Labor, and we can expect no aid from them. We can, however, gain much support from men in business and public life by making known to them the hypocrisy and mean intent of any amendment which destroys the right of contract. We must get busy.

SHOWS TIRES WIN BATTLES

WASHINGTON.—"Highballing to Victory," new 20-minute Army film made up of combat footage taken on the world-wide fighting fronts, will be available for union showings on November 25. Dramatizing the wartime importance of tires, the movie

points out that battles would end disastrously for the nation that no longer had them. Like all War Department films, "Highballing to Victory" is a sound film, available in 16-mm or 35-mm size. Inquiries should be addressed to: Motion Picture Branch, Industrial Services Division, Room 1315, 1501 Broadway, New York 18, New York.

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THE A. F. OF L. STANDS WITH AND FOR THE FLAG

THE MARCH OF LABOR



Forced to leave the tank he was driving when water in the fuel line caused it to stall, Pvt. Abe Fortner of Livermore, Ky., later returned, cleaned the fuel sediment bowl and got the machine in operation, while still under heavy fire. The tank, repeatedly hit, stalled and Fortner repeated his cleaning until it finally went up in a blaze. The private has a bronze medal for his feat but War Bonds must be sold to replace the tank.

Free Labor Will Out-Produde Nazi Slaves

"FIGHT — WORK — SAVE"