

# 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

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.

KEEP FAITH WITH THEM!

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

VOL. XIV.—NO. 30

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1944

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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### RELATION OF WAGES TO WELFARE AND ADVANCEMENT OF OUR STATE — WORKERS WAGE MEANS MORE THAN DOLLARS AND CENTS

Editor Charlotte Labor Journal:

North Carolina now knows where she stands as a state. North Carolina stands next to the bottom of the list in the matter of average wage income for the working people of the state.

North Carolina's average wage rate is 39 per cent below the national level.

In other words, a working man in North Carolina gets 61 cents while the average American worker is getting a dollar.

In the past three years, since war industries brought this North Carolina wage level up to this miserable point, wages have increased more than half.

These figures were revealed last week in a report issued by the Unemployment Compensation Committee, and the report started this state as nothing else has done in many a day.

Let us consider for a moment the relation of the wage to the welfare and advancement of the state. The working man's wage means more, much more, than simply so many dollars and cents.

The pay envelope of the working man contains his wages for the week, or the pay period. That pay envelope of the working man contains every mouthful of food that he and his family have to eat, every garment they wear, their shelter which they call home, their medicine and medical attention, their dental bills, their school books and schooling, their church contributions and fraternal order dues, and everything that goes into the life of the wage-earner and his family is contained in that pay envelope.

Therefore, when a worker in North Carolina is getting only 61 cents in his pay envelope to each dollar that the average American worker gets, then he and his family are living on 61 cents worth of food and raiment, medicine and schooling, in comparison to the dollar's worth that the average American worker has to spend on his family.

Let us see how this deplorable situation affects the business man, the doctor, the dentist, the schools.

While the average American worker is earning and spending \$100 with his merchants and professional men, the North Carolina worker has only \$61 to spend with the North Carolina merchant, doctor, dentist.

Much of this state's industry is financed by foreign capital. This means that much of the \$39 withheld from North Carolina wage-earners goes into the bank accounts of people who live in other states. They do not spend any of that vast dif-

ference here with business men in this state. It is pure velvet for foreign capital.

The labor union is the only force or influence that has made an effort to remedy this terrible situation. Those who profit most because North Carolina labor is 39 per cent under the average of the nation's workers in the matter of wages, are the ones who lead the fight against the union. Of course, many misinformed people who do not gain because of this condition, but who actually lose thereby, join in the anvil chorus against the union.

These are the people who would, if they could, have the legislature submit to referendum an amendment to the state constitution forbidding the union shop contracts between an employer and his workers. There are numerous employers who honestly desire to pay better wages to those employed by them, but because of keen competition by the low-wage advocates, it is difficult for them to pay more, and survive.

Then, too, that precious Little Steel Formula, that Bible of the War Labor Board, that hold-the-line-or-die motto, is used to punish the working people of North Carolina. Please remember that the existing wage rates in North Carolina have increased more than half during the past three years, yet remains 39 per cent below the national average.

Because of this increase the dogmatic War Labor Board says: "Starve, ye Tar Heel Workers, Starve! The Little Steel Formula must stand, food or no food, fuel or no fuel, for the Little Steel Formula is more important than the wage-earners, their wives and children!"

The Charlotte News, in editorial comment on this 39 per cent wage rate of North Carolina workers, goes to the point, as follows:

—V—  
LOW DOWN

"It is now official that North Carolina wages are just about the lowest in the country, and this is not a CIO figure for use in pressing home wage gains. The State Unemployment Commission Reports the facts,



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

#### RENEWED ACTIVITY OF CHARLOTTE WORKERS

Renewed and intensified activity is noted about the Charlotte Labor Temple. The meetings of the Charlotte Central Labor Union as well as the meetings of the several local unions of the city are most interesting. Larger attendance and more intensified interest seem to be the order of the day.

President Jack Moore, of the Central Labor Union, and Secretary Sutton, with the aid of a special committee, are planning programs which will further intensify interest in the organizations. The program calls for an open forum once a month, a certain meeting night in each month to be set aside for this purpose. Men and women in public life will be invited to attend these meetings, and all who attend will be given the opportunity to express their views.

"Instead of criticising us on the street corners, in the club room or office, we want our friends to come into these open forum meetings and tell us what they are thinking and what they think we ought to do or not to do," President Moore said in explanation of the plans and purposes of the open forum meetings. He said he believed that labor and the community as a whole would derive great benefit from such meetings.

"Of course, every one who honors us with his or her presence will be accorded the most respectful attention," President Moore said. He expressed the further hope that as a result of these open forum meetings, the civic and business organizations of the city will in turn invite members of Organized Labor to appear before these groups and tell these memberships of labor's aims, hopes and aspirations.

"We are all neighbors. What helps one, helps the other; what hurts one, hurts all others," said President Moore. "Why shouldn't we meet and discuss together these problems of common interest?"

and they do not make bright reading.

"North Carolina's average weekly wage is \$26.51—and only South Carolina, with a whistling \$24.21, is

lower.

"The national average is \$40.77, and in some instances, as in Alaska and Michigan, the averages run up over \$50. In seven other states the average is over \$45.

"But that isn't all. North Carolina's wage level has increased more than half in the past three years. We are still 39 per cent below the national level, but war gains have made even our present sorry showing possible. In short, without the influx of some war industries and the coming of prosperous times, our wage level would be far lower.

"And this, of course, is one of the grim facts underlying North Carolina's economy. From time to time interested citizens speak out, saying that we must reduce this tax or that to attract industries to the state, or that we must advertise our assets nationally—calling attention, among other things, to our bountiful supply of cheap labor. But these do not even approach the North Carolina problem.

"We cannot hope to build a sound economy on the nation's lowest wages, nor can we hope for real progress in any field. For low wages mean low standards, low goals, heavy burdens."

—J. L. B.

### PRODUCE FOR VICTORY

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.

TO WIN THE WAR  
SOONER  
LET US ALL WORK  
HARDER

THERE ARE NO UNIONS OR ANY OTHER FREE INSTITUTIONS UNDER NAZI OR JAP RULE.

### SERVICE MEN ARE LOOKING TO UNION MEN AT HOME FOR JOB PROTECTION AFTER WAR

A letter addressed to R. S. Twitty, business agent for the Carpenters Local Union here, from a member of the union "somewhere in the Pacific" is most interesting and informative. The writer, L. J. Walsh, one of the most popular members of the Carpenters Local Union, makes the following statement:

"... US FELLOWS OVER HERE ARE DEPENDING UPON OUR LOCAL UNIONS FOR OUR FUTURE AFTER THIS IS ALL OVER."

This statement will astound those loud-mouthed boys who have been yelling from the housetops that the service men are angry with Organized Labor here at home.

The letter is as follows:

"Dear Brothers:

I guess you are surprised to hear from me. The fact of the matter is that they keep us busy enough here that we do well to squeeze in time enough to write our immediate families—much less anyone else.

I want to thank the Local for the box of cigars that I received a few days ago. We sure had a smoking good time, for as you probably well realize cigars are few and far between out this way.

We sure have been doing lots of work. The temperature is 140 degrees today—and we were working in it. That's a shade hot for a country boy.

I hope this letter finds all the men well and working.

The main reason I write this letter is to get a little more information. I would like to know what the prospects for a job will be after the war, and how the Local is functioning now. As a Local member, now in the Service fighting for the right to have a union, I would like to know what the plans for us are.

As I can't be there to look after my interest in the Local, I would like to know the salaries of the officers and of the Local's business in general.

Since I have been over here I have

made the acquaintance of fellows

from all over the United States, and consequently, from various Locals throughout the States. Through discussing matters in general with them I have learned the real value of Organized Labor, and I believe that now is the time to economize for the future and to build up our funds as much as possible for things may be a lot different after the war.

The reason I bring this up is that all of us fellows over here are depending upon our Locals for our future after this is all over. Our Local in Charlotte has been well organized and I feel that it will be able to handle any emergency that may arise.

In closing this letter I want to wish every one of you a swell Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I hope to be seeing all of you soon—and judging by the way the Japs have pitched around the past few months, it shouldn't be too long until I'm back on the job saying "Hello" to all of you. As ever,

BROTHER "RED" WALSH,  
L. J. Walsh, CMIC.  
CBMU 587, Platoon 2,  
Care Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.  
Nov. 9, 1944.

### LABOR'S FIGHT ON PRESSURE GROUPS HELPED HOLD PRICE LINE SAYS CHESTER BOWLES

NEW ORLEANS—Delegates to the American Federation of Labor's convention here heard OPA Administrator Chester Bowles give credit to labor for the Administration's success in beating back attempts of pressure groups to break down price control.

"Throughout the long fight to maintain our control over rents and prices, we have had the vigorous support of organized labor and other consumer groups," Bowles said. "Without that support we couldn't have done the job.

"Organized labor's support of price control, rent control and rationing has been an invaluable aid to the war effort. It ranks second in importance only to labor's record on the production front."

Bowles let it be known that when civilian products abandoned during the war come back into production, the OPA intends to hold their prices to the level of early 1942. That can be done even though wages and prices of materials may have increased during the period.

"We know from our experience that industry can absorb considerable increases in material prices and wage rates without compensating price increases—and still maintain handsome profits," Bowles declared.

### THE MARCH OF LABOR

LABOR FIGHTS ON ALL FRONTS — WORKING, FIGHTING, GIVING, AND BUYING BONDS!

THE ARMY AIR CORPS HAS POSTHUMOUSLY PAID TRIBUTE TO A NEW TYPE OF WAR HERO. HE WAS JOHN ROHM, PRES. OF UAW-CIO LOCAL 92, FENTON, MICH., WHO LEFT A SICKBED TO SETTLE A STRIKE AND SUCCEEDED TO HIS LONG ILLNESS A FEW MINUTES AFTER HIS MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

IN 1700 LARGE CORPORATIONS SELECTED AT RANDOM THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR TOP THREE EXECUTIVES INCREASED FROM \$61,000 IN 1939 TO \$84,000 IN 1942.

THE OLDEST NATIONAL UNION IN AGRICULTURE IS THE SHEEP SHEARERS' UNION, ORGANIZED IN 1913.

A UNION HAT IS A GOOD HAT. LOOK FOR THIS LABEL SEWN UNDER THE SWEATBAND OF THE HAT YOU BUY; INSIST ON IT!



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