

# Back Up The Boys -- With Bonds

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. of L.

VOL. XIV.—NO. 33

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1944

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### SOME BUSINESS CONCERNS ARE CROOKED—BIDDLE PLACED ON SPOT FOR FAILURE TO PROSECUTE "GYP" CONTRACTORS AND GRAFTERS

Seldom does a day pass without new evidence coming to light of dishonest business men "gypping" both the Government and the people. Here are a few typical examples of recent weeks:

#### PROSECUTION STALLED

WASHINGTON—Nearly a year ago the House Military Affairs Committee disclosed widespread corruption in connection with the construction of Camp Shanks, New York. The records were turned over to the Department of Justice, but the crooks are still at large.

Responsibility is placed on the doorstep of Attorney General Francis Biddle by Congressman Andrew J. May (D., Ky.) chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs.

He has declared that unless Biddle "ferrets out the crooks before the start of the next Congress" he will "dissect the case on the floor of the House for the benefit of everybody."

Testimony before the committee disclosed that army officers conspired with contractors to "gyp" Uncle Sam out of huge sums—probably running into the millions. The Department of Justice says the case will be placed before a Federal grand jury.

#### "Red Market" Racket

Consumers who have been robbed blind by the "black market" are now victims of the "red market," as well. Under the new racket, crooked butchers have been palming off point-free utility grades of beef as higher grade cuts—and then to rub it in, have collected ration points, as well as above-ceiling prices for the product.

This week Economic Stabilizer Fred M. Vinson finally took action designed to curb the racket by issuing an order that requires grade labeling on at least every 2 inches of dressed carcasses. Thus, the grade mark will show, Vinson said, on most steaks, chops and roasts bought by consumers. OPA was directed by Vinson to enforce the order.

#### Government Is Cheated

Uncle Sam was bilked in a deal between the Maritime Commission and the Southern Pacific Company for the purchase of 10 of the company's ships operated on the Atlantic Coast under the name of the Morgan Line, the House Marine Committee has reported.

The committee denounced both the company and the commission—the former for deceiving the government on the condition of the vessels, and the latter for buying the ships "sight unseen."

The steamers were on the

### "SHADOW BOXING" IS THE CHARGE THAT PRESIDENT GREEN HANDS TO MURRAY ON THE "PEACE PACT"

WASHINGTON, D. C.—CIO President Philip Murray rejected AFL demands for resumption of conferences for unification of the American labor movement and offered instead a proposal for united policies by the two organizations while dualism continues.

AFL President William Green promptly branded Mr. Murray's sneering letter as "shadow-boxing and pretense." He insisted there can be no effective "functional" unity without "organic" unity. Mr. Green's statement follows:

"I interpret Mr. Murray's letter as a flat refusal on the part of the CIO to accept the American Federation of Labor's appeals for resumption of conferences seeking a united labor movement in America. The only way to achieve unity is to unite organically. This is labor's greatest need now and in the post-war period, yet Mr. Murray turns a deaf ear toward it. Instead Mr. Murray offers the same sort of phoney, functional unity which the CIO has often prated about in the past. Our experiences during this war have taught us that it is impossible to maintain united labor policies and programs at the top while division, dualism and bitter discord continue in the field. The unalterable fact remains that two national labor organizations cannot co-exist in America without serious injury to the nation's workers and the cause of progress. There is room for only one united labor movement in our country. The inevitable shock of post-war economic readjustment will make this clear. I deeply regret that Mr. Murray and his associates in the CIO do not yet realize the dangers that face labor and are content merely with shadow boxing and pretense."

#### Cigarette Makers Convicted

Three of the nation's largest tobacco companies—Liggett & Myers, R. J. Reynolds and American—were found guilty last week by the U. S. Court of Appeals at Cincinnati of conspiring to fix prices in violation of the anti-trust laws.

However, they got away with fines totaling a mere \$255,000, which alongside their profits, running in tens of millions of dollars a year for each, ranked about as big as the price of a cigarette.

#### Shoddy Clothing

Consumers are being muled on both price and quality of cotton garments, a sub-committee on post-war planning of the House Committee on Agriculture was told last week by spokesmen for women's groups.

Caroline F. Ware, appearing for six women's organizations, declared that even where garments are available, they are of the shoddiest kind. "Consumers today are literally up in arms," she said, "over their inability to find in the stores essential garments of minimum quality to be serviceable, and at a reasonable price."

#### Distillers "Gyp" Too

An idea of the mammoth amount of price chiseling going on in the

### OUTPUT LAG IS NOT FAULT OF LABOR SAYS OFFICIAL CITES ADDITIONAL REASONS

WORCESTER, Mass.—In a speech before the New England Conference of the USA, Joseph D. Keenan, WPB vice chairman for Labor Production, deplored accounts of production problems which blame labor for present shortages on the grounds that workers have grown complacent and are failing to stick by their war jobs.

Statements made by military leaders and war production officials, Keenan said, have clearly shown that many factors other than labor shortages are responsible for the current situation, though he was frank to admit that some of the difficulties experienced in meeting production can be attributed to problems of recruiting labor and to turnover.

He cited these additional reasons for lagging schedules: The war in Europe has lasted longer than even our generals had originally expected. Experience of actual battle conditions is constantly creating new and unexpected demands. We are ahead of our military schedule in the Pacific. "The doughboy has fought his way ahead of schedule," he quoted General Somervell as saying, "and we have to keep up with him."

Another reason for production delays is the frequency with which the Army changes models, Keenan said. No matter what the reasons behind the critical production, Keenan said, he was sure that workers will agree that there is only one thing we are going to do about them—meet them.

### STRIKES TAKE A "NOSE DIVE" FOR A "NEW LOW"

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Time lost by strikes has taken a nose-dive, the Department of Labor revealed.

During October, the last month for which figures are available, man-days lost from work stoppage amounted to 690,000, or a mere 9/100 of 1 per cent of time put in by the nation's workers.

That's a decline of 322,534 man-days below losses from strikes for the corresponding month a year ago, the department said.

### FEDERAL COURT KILLS THE IOWA ANTI-LABOR LAW

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Labor officials hailed a Federal Court decision in Iowa which knocked out a state law placing a six months' time limit on suits for back pay under the Wage-Hour Act.

Iowa is one of a half dozen states which in the past few years put over statutes drastically cutting down the time in which to sue employers who chisel on pay legally due their workers.

Heretofore, workers have had the same right as business men and others in suing for money due them—that is, they could begin court action at any time within the six-year statute of limitations.

### IBEW MEMBER WINS DSC FOR D-DAY DEED

WASHINGTON.—For single-handedly wiping out two machinegun nests and capturing an enemy sniper on the Normandy beach on D-Day, Sgt. Richard J. Gallagher, Brooklyn, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, highest Army honor that can be conferred by an overseas commander. Gallagher was a member of Local 3, IBEW (AFL), and was employed at Consolidated Fire Alarm Co. before joining the Army in May 1943.

liquor industry was indicated when the OPA started a damage suit for more than \$5,200,000 against three distilleries for violating price ceilings. The American Distilling Co. of New York; Country Distillers Products Co., Beattyville, Ky., and Ben Burk, Inc., Boston, were named in the suit. The OPA demanded triple damages for brazen overcharges on liquor prices by the three firms. All in all, it's a sorry example of patriotism from so many sections of Big Business with the nation engaged in the deadliest war in history. And it probably will not be forgotten when the boys come home and learn there's something else besides strikes rotten on the home front.

The greatest mystery is death.

## NINETEEN FORTY-FIVE

The New Year is yours to make what you will of it. It opens up to you new responsibilities, new opportunities, and perhaps new sorrows.

To him who possesses vision, 1945 comes on the highest, the mightiest tide that has ever come flowing into our port of hope. There are those who will look mournfully into the face of the New Year. There are those who will say that the world is still in the midst of a terrifying dream. But they are the unfortunates without vision.

In our own hearts, each of us knows that the world could and should be a better place in which to live. We know that war has no place in a good world. But we know, too, that tyranny, injustice and hatred always lead to war. It is part of our job to see that those forces of evil are forever stamped out.

America is a mighty nation, and America is no more than a multiplication of our own community. Each of us must have the vision to live understandingly with our neighbors. We must not only be neighbors, we must be good neighbors. Then the insidious forces which lead to violence have no soil in which to grow. They are as seed cast upon the rock.

Our own community is proud of its past achievements. The past three years have taught us that we can do what we will in our own minds. The job we have done in the past gives us the courage and fortitude to face the future unafraid. We know that no problem is without a solution.

So it is with a spirit of genuine hope, a feeling of humility and a prayer of thanks that this newspaper wishes each of you

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### SUPPLIES OF TENTAGE ARE FALLING SHORT

WASHINGTON.—To date, the Army has received only 43 percent of the tentage it needs, the War Department announces, revealing that urgent pleas from General Eisenhower's headquarters for additional tentage for at least 600,000 troops and prisoners of war have emphasized the critical situation in the cotton duck industry.

With heavy rains and snows imminent, General Eisenhower characterizes shelter in the European theater as extremely unfavorable. Bombing and shelling have destroyed most housing and commercial storage facilities in northern France and Belgium, and the speed of the war tempo has afforded no time for construction of barracks or store houses.

In the Pacific area heavy rains and moist heat make the average life of cotton material extremely short and strain the situation further.

Conductor: "Madame, that child is over 5 years old and he will have to pay full fare."

Lady: "But I've only been married four years."

Conductor: "Never mind the true confessions; all I want is the money."

"While myriads of Chinese are dying of starvation profiteers daily have a fourteen-course dinner."—Manchester Guardian.

### AMERICAN HEROES



For six days and six nights after abandoning a torpedoed ship in the Indian Ocean, Chief Mate Van Rutherford McCarthy remained at the helm of a lifeboat. Buffeted for sixty-three hours by a terrific gale, he kept the tiny craft afloat and brought his men through safe. He slept only six hours and kept the morale of his men high. He has been awarded a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal. War Bonds back such courageous men as Chief Mate McCarthy. Buy more War Bonds.

U. S. Treasury Dept.

### THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE 800 U.S. SAILORS AND MARINES AND 1,142 A.F.L. WORKERS CAPTURED BY THE JAPANESE AT WAKE ISLAND HAVE BEEN "ADOPTED" BY THE INSURANCE AGENTS UNION - C.I.O. OF BOSTON, WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE VOTED TO GIVE AN HOUR'S PAY EACH PER MONTH TO BUY THE CAPTIVES SUPPLIES.



THE NATIONAL LABOR UNION, A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CITY TRADE COUNCILS, ATTAINED A MEMBERSHIP OF 540,000. THOUGH IT LASTED ONLY SIX YEARS, 1866-1872.

YOU SHOW YOUR SYMPATHY FOR THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BY DEMANDING UNION LABELS IN ALL THE HATS YOU BUY!



IN 1940, AVERAGE STRAIGHT TIME EARNINGS FOR ALL NON-FARM WORKERS WERE 60¢ AN HOUR. TODAY, IN DOLLARS OF EQUAL BUYING POWER, THE FIGURE IS 60¢.

