

Back Up The Boys -- With BONDS

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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

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YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1945

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS RECEIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF LABOR

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THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL ADVOCATES LOYALTY TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR; PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY, AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL WORKERS ALONG EVERY LINE.

AN ANSWER FROM OKINAWA

Infantryman, Killed in Battle for Japanese Island, Writes Blueprint for America's Future Greatness
By Pfc. John H. Hogan

Pfc. John H. Hogan, 184th Infantry, veteran of the Attu, Kiska, Kwajalein and Leyte campaigns, was killed in action on Okinawa, May 7, 1945. Official confirmation from the War Department came last month to his family in New York.

On the day he gave his life in combat, and for several weeks before and after, the statesmen of the United Nations were meeting in San Francisco to draft a new world charter, in an effort to insure that his sacrifice, and that of thousands like him, might not this time be in vain. But even the most optimistic of the diplomats agreed that no organization will succeed without the spirit and philosophy that can answer the causes of war in men's hearts.

Private Hogan's letters to his family articulate the hopes and fears of those thousands everywhere. They are battlefield classics from a soldier who fought not only with his gun and walkie-talkie, but who put into words for the statesman and the ordinary man a philosophy by which all can work together to make possible a new world.

We present here one of his recent letters in commemoration of a gallant fighter in the war of arms, and in the war of ideas which will outlast it.—The Editors.

From the deck of the transport where I sit, I am looking out past the rail on turquoise waters of the Pacific, for the moment at least living up to its name. All around the great convoy moves silently, one of the mightiest armadas ever assembled. The low snake-like contours of the island encircle us like a great green wreath, standing sentinel against the sea.

My own division is here, drawing perhaps the most vital task of the entire operation. With these men I have shared Kiska, Kwajalein, Leyte and some of us are veterans of Attu. There is little excitement aboard as I write. There are a few card games in progress, but mostly the men are talking quietly in small groups or, perhaps, writing that last letter home to the folks.

I have a brother in France and one training in Texas now to be in on the final act of the drama. My thoughts are with them as I write, and with my family in New York. The support of their prayers is the greatest reality of my daily life. Long before Ethiopia, Poland or Nanking, my family was fighting. Across the confused disillusion and moral anarchy of the prewar years, we heard the prophetic voice of Dr. Frank Buchman. He and his associates in Moral Re-Armament were working frantically in the face of apathy and persecution in a race against time to warn the statesman and the common man alike, that unless the moral foundations of civilization were restored, crisis would end in catastrophe.

THE REAL ENEMY

He said, "The world will listen to the guidance of God, or the world will listen to guns." Today, poised for the greatest battle of the Pacific war my thoughts are primarily of gratitude to him, because he has shown me the real enemy and taught me how to fight.

There are two wars going on: the war of arms and the war of the spirit. The first is almost won. The second is almost lost. Unless there is born again in our people the spirit of sacrifice and service, of moral responsibility and faith in God, my comrades and I who fight on the Pacific beaches, and those of us who will die there, have been exploited and be-

trayed and have fought and died in vain.

The cultural, and above all the democratic heritage of Western civilization, had its roots in historic Christianity. Modern man destroyed the roots, and the flower withered and died. Rejecting our responsibility as moral beings to God, the liberty to do what we ought as free men became the license to do what we pleased.

With this decay in individual character, the nations were subverted and betrayed, and lost their strength and sense of destiny, and even their very life blood. It was inevitable that such a world should end in sorrow, broken faith and war.

That world is dead and he who would resurrect it is the enemy of mankind. Modern man has tried in vain to build society on the shifting sands of scientific humanism, universal education, politics without justice, and economics without God. Now we must rebuild civilization on the bedrock of Christian faith, the sanctity of the family and the home, and the wisdom and the plan of God.

The American people are emerging today with more power and more prestige than any other single country in the family of nations. Mankind is knocking at our gates, seeking light from our national fires, wisdom from our leaders, the hope of peace from our people. Before we can fulfill our destiny to lead the world to sanity and harmony we have to rebuild the fiber of our national life.

AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY

Suppose we as a nation find again the faith in God our fathers knew? Suppose our homes become again the nation's strength, our schools the center of true learning for good citizenship, our farms and factories the patterns of unity, integrity and national service? Suppose our statesmen learn again to listen to the voice of God?

Then we shall know once more the greatness of a nation whose strength is in her obedience to the moral law of God, and in the spirit of her people. Then our fighting will not be in vain. Then America will hold forth to all people of the earth the only answer that can satisfy their longing for peace, their thirst for a sane and decent world.

There is one other road and only one. The forces of subversion—those who would make sex and materialism the philosophy of our national life; money, pride and power the goals of our living. They too have a road to offer. And at its end is racial and class warfare, and national suicide. They are organized and passionate. They have already sapped our strength and split our people. Only with the help of God will we be able to reorganize and defeat them.

EXCERPTS FROM HOGAN'S LAST LETTERS HOME

(Somewhere in the South Pacific)

"I was thinking last night of what a privilege it is mine in having a family whose longing for our return carries also a sense of commission because you want us to return, not to softness and ease and the materialism that would mock these days, but to the eternal warfare of the spirit that alone can give them fruit. It might be called the paradox of 'returning soldiers who go home to fight!' This thought means a lot to me because it is at the heart of the problem of building the new world. We can be sure that unless, increasingly, our soldiers return to spiritual warfare, the new world will most definitely not be built."

(On transport heading for Okinawa)

"I feel so light-hearted and confident and buoyant that I can't help from chuckling inwardly at the thought that I am an incurable optimist—part of the legacy of being Irish perhaps! For want of better words I can only call it the sense of invincibility. I am facing the facts squarely and with God's help I shall always do so. I realize that anything can happen, but I know with a certainty beyond explanation that nothing can happen to me of which God has not the fore-knowledge and for which He has not a glorious and creative plan and purpose. God's way of dealing with us is very real and very simple. He takes us to the summit of Calvary and shows us all the evil and pain and sorrow and danger in the universe and then says with divine simplicity, 'Fear not, for I have overcome the world.'"

(Okinawa, the last letter written)

"This time has been incomparably the worst I've seen in the military sense. . . . No man, no society, no civilization can begin to thank those men (the front-line infantry) for their fight to throw back the onrushing forces of hate. God alone can reward them, and He will. . . . The future is rich in promise. 'This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song!' God bless you all. Fight on! We march as one."

BEING POOR

William James
We have grown literally afraid to be poor. We despise any one who elects to be poor in order to simplify and save his inner life. We have lost the power of even imagining what the ancient idealization of poverty could have meant; the liberation from material attachments, the unbridled soul, the manlier indifference, the paying our way by what we are or do, and not by what we have, the right to fling away our life at any moment irresponsibly—the more athletic trim; in short, the moral fighting shape. It

is certain that the prevalent fear of poverty among the educated classes is the worst moral disease from which our civilization suffers.

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

WORKERS EAGER FOR ASSURANCE SAYS A. F. L. PRESIDENT WM. GREEN; STRIKES DUE TO GROWING UNREST

WASHINGTON, July 15.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor said tonight that "current strikes are symptomatic of a growing unrest among American workers."

He added, in a talk written for a network broadcast: "First, take-home wages have been sharply cut by reduced overtime."

"Second, many workers have lost their relatively well-paid jobs in war industries because of cutbacks, and the only new jobs available to them offer much lower wages."

"Third, the failure of the government to act promptly in providing adequate unemployment compensation insurance has filled war workers with fear that they will be left stranded when the war ends."

Green proposed "free collective bargaining" to raise wage rates where price increases will not result. He also asked an increase in minimum wages from 55 to 72 cents an hour, and unemployment insurance paying off as much as \$25 a week to workers with families.

Green said "such action will reduce strikes to a minimum."

He reaffirmed the AFL's no-strike pledge and said that "headlines last week told us with a great deal of emphasis that fifty thousand workers had quit their jobs" but "not a word was said about the fifty million workers who remained faithfully at their tasks."

Tall Stories Of Big Pay Held To Blame For Veterans' Wage Expectations

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ILNS)—Many veterans disappointed at not obtaining the fabulous \$150 a week war plant job" about which they heard overseas prefer to collect unemployment compensation rather than take lower pay jobs, Ted F. Silvey, chairman of the CIO Reconversion Committee said here.

Silvey told the Washington chapter of the American Veterans Committee that this country is reaping the har-

vest of having permitted outrageous stories" of war plant salaries to reach men fighting overseas.

Full Employment Goal Urged

"When the returning veteran asks for those high wages, he is told that the plant manager or foreman may receive that much but he is disgruntled when informed that he can have only a \$35 a week or maybe a \$50 a week job," Silvey said.

A JOINT FIGHT ON DISEMPLOYMENT

The American Federation of Labor has taken the initiative in establishing Social Security Committees within Central Labor Unions. These committees are designed to offset the effects of unemployment.

Community Chests and Councils, Inc., embracing hundreds of local Chests and Councils of Social Agencies, has joined in this effort to combat joblessness. Its affiliated membership is urged to gather full information about unemployment compensation, old age and survivors' insurance, public works, U. S. Employment Service, residence requirements for benefits, public assistance programs, aid to transients, and kindred subjects.

Local Community Chests can be of real assistance to A. F. of L. Social Security Committees by furnishing this valuable information. Result of this combined action: Easing effects of unemployment for returned veterans and displaced war workers.

This is only one of the many services offered to Labor by Chests and Social Councils.

Here are a few other fields in which most of them operate:

1. Adjustment of veterans to civilian life.
2. Hospital, clinics and health-restoring services.
3. Special educational opportunities for children.
4. Recreation advantages to all, including parks, play grounds, swimming pools and summer camps.

5. Assistance in housing difficulties.
6. Adjustment of family problems.

Central Labor Unions can become better acquainted with these opportunities by taking full part in deliberations of the Chests and Social Agencies. The Labor League for Human Rights has already opened the door in this direction. C. L. U.'s should follow up by making the most of committee assignments allotted to Labor.

The stigma of "relief" surrounding the work of Chests and Social Agencies is rapidly fading away. Labor can permanently remove this atmosphere by extending its interest in the planning and work of community service organizations. Labor's participation during the war years has helped greatly to bring about a new conception of the advantages they offer.

An era of world-wide cooperation is beginning. Labor and the Social Services have made a good start in attempting to understand each other's problems. Let's enlarge this understanding. Both will benefit immeasurably.

ON GIVING ADVICE

A. Edward Newton

Only when a man is safely ensconced under six feet of earth, with several tons of enclauding granite upon his chest, is he in a position to give advice with any certainty, and then he is silent.

WAGES BELOW 65c HR SUBSTANDARD; SENATE LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE ASKS EARLY CONSIDERATION OF AMENDT

WASHINGTON, July 16.—(AP)—A Senate Labor subcommittee endorsed yesterday a resolution declaring it is the sense of congress that any hourly wage below 65 cents is "substandard."

It recommended that Congress give early consideration to amending the fair labor standards act "with a view to raising the statutory minimum wage and broadening the coverage of the act." That law fixes 40 cents as the minimum wage which may be paid by businesses engaged in interstate commerce.

The resolution—introduced by Senators Pepper, Democrat of Florida, LaFollette, Progressive of Wisconsin, and Johnston, Democrat of South Carolina—would direct specifically that the War Labor Board shall consider any wage under 65 cents an hour substandard.

At present, WLB accepts 55 cents as substandard. This means that wages can be raised to that level without regard for the wage stabilization program.

The subcommittee—composed of Senators Pepper, LaFollette, Thomas, Democrat of Utah, Tunnell, Democrat of Delaware, and Aiken, Republican of Vermont—estimated in its report that 10,000,000 workers receive less than 65 cents.

"This minimum rate, it is important to remember, would in no sense be a compulsory minimum," the report said. "It would be purely permissive; if an employer wished to raise his wage rates to 65 cents he would be

permitted to do so."

The committee emphasized that the resolution if adopted "would not prevent the board from setting a higher minimum should it determine such a rate to be necessary to fulfillment of the requirements of announced policy."

"Despite the relatively high level of wartime wages," the committee's report declared, "millions of American workers and their families are today forced to exist on earnings insufficient to provide even the barest minimum standard of living consistent with health and decency."

"If this resolution is adopted, the maximum possible aggregate cost of wage increases to the industries affected would be about \$4,000,000,000 a year. This figure, however, is based upon the unrealistic assumption that all workers receiving less than 65 cents an hour would immediately be raised to 65 cents," the group said.

Organized Labor Held Vital Force Working For Betterment Of South

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(ILNS)—

Vigorously advocating the growth and strengthening of union labor in the South, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare declared here that organized labor is a vital force working constantly for betterment of the average Southerner and his family.

In an attractively printed and illustrated pamphlet, just published, the conference asserts that much of the long-range security and welfare of Southern workers depends on the strength of organized labor below the Mason-Dixon line.

"Tomorrow's world—the world of our children—will depend in large measure on our protection of the rights of labor organizations and on our cooperation with these organizations in pursuit of our common goals," the pamphlet says. It concludes, "If you are a worker, join a union. They work for your children, too!"

The Southern Conference is composed of business, labor, farm, civic, church and professional leaders who seek to mobilize the resources of the South for greater benefit to that region and to the nation. It is actively working for the abolition of the poll tax, for abolition of the freight rate discriminations against Southern industry, for the protection of the rights of labor and racial and religious minorities, for the extension of federal aid to farmers, and for better medical and educational facilities for the South.

B. L. GREEN JR., IS GIVEN PURPLE HEART — SON OF LOCAL PRINTER

WITH THE SIXTH ARMY ON LUZON.—Sgt. Buford L. Green Jr. of Charlotte, a member of the 38th "Cyclone" Division, has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on Cabello Island, Manila Bay, Philippine Islands.

Sgt. Green holds the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with three battle stars, and the Philippine Liberation ribbon in addition to his latest award. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buford L. Green Sr., 909 N. Pine St.

The 151st Infantry soldier attended the Central High School and was an apprentice machinist at the Navy Yard in Washington, D. C. He has recovered from his wounds and has returned to duty with his company.

(Mr. Green, Sr., has for many years had charge of the linotype machines on the Charlotte Observer.)

EVERY THIRD WOMAN REJECTED BY WACS

WASHINGTON.—An appalling lack of physical fitness among the nation's womanhood is revealed in a War Department report that one-third of all applicants for enlistment in the WACS were rejected for medical reasons.

It was pointed out that the 33 per cent rejections indicate an even more serious health situation for women than for the 40 per cent rejection rate did for the men.

You Said It

This is indeed a crazy world; Its wonders never cease. While the civilized nations went to war The savages remained at peace! —By Joseph Kundla, Ernest, Pa.

CENTRAL BODY MEETS

The Charlotte Central Labor Union held its regular weekly meeting last Thursday, July 12, and all of the various locals were well represented. They reported favorable progress on all business at hand. Mr. George Googe, southern representative of the A. F. of L. was present and explained that the recent wage raise of the post office employees was a result of incessant pressure put to bare by the various Central Bodies over the nation. Other business was brought before the body and discussed at length.

Labor Bill Held Blow At Right To Strike

NEW YORK CITY.—(ILNS)—The Ball-Burton-Hatch industrial relations bill attacks labor's right to strike by establishing compulsory arbitration, Max Delson, Workers Defense League national counsel, declared in a statement announcing the league's opposition to the bill.

Delson's statement follows: "The federal industrial relations bill sponsored by Senators Ball, Burton and Hatch is a definite threat to the organized labor movement in the United States. All sections of organized labor have unanimously condemned this measure; because if it is enacted into law it will not only impair the functioning of the National Labor Relations Act, but will afford recalcitrant employers the opportunity of intensifying their antiunion campaigns."

"Since the right of employees to organize is a fundamental right, any encroachments upon this right does violence to the concept of a free trade union movement. The right to strike will be curtailed in that this measure encompasses compulsory arbitration. This measure sets up a complicated set of machinery which will be resorted to for the purpose of interfering with and delaying the process of collective bargaining."

9,049 WHITE SCHOOL PUPILS USE LIBRARY

Seventy-five percent of the white children enrolled in the elementary schools of Charlotte are registered users of the Public Library System according to newly revised registration data. There were 9,049 white children enrolled in the white elementary schools in Charlotte in 1945. When it is realized that school enrollment is compulsory, this voluntary use of the Public Library represents a good record.

14,167 books were lent from the Main Children's Department and the two white City Branches in May. The June figures were much higher.

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, and with not too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays.