

AMERICA VICTORIOUS AGAIN

The Charlotte Labor Journal

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Official Organ of Central Labor Union, Standard for the A. F. L.

AGAIN LABOR HAS DONE THE JOB

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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.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO LABOR - RECOGNIZES DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE OF LABOR AND THE RIGHT OF A LIVING WAGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—President Truman said last night in a Labor Day statement that the nation recognizes the importance and dignity of labor and the right of every American to a wage which will permit a decent living standard. The president's comment was echoed by other leaders in the country, as the United States prepared to celebrate the Labor Day holiday.

Concern was voiced by some leaders, however, lest the process of reconversion and attendant unemployment might not be promptly solved. Meanwhile the nation's war workers, who have been urged since the start of the war to regard Labor Day as just another working day, were told to have fun on Monday.

"Each year since the battle of production began," WPB Chairman J. R. Krug said in a statement, "American labor has responded nobly to the repeated urgings to stay on the job until victory is won. Now, at last, thanks to labor's patriotic steadfastness, this year it is a pleasure to invite labor to celebrate its magnificent accomplishments in winning the war."

In his tribute to labor Mr. Truman said:

"Six years ago the workers of the United States and of the world, awoke to a Labor Day in a world at war. The democracies of Western Europe had just accepted the challenge of totalitarianism. We in the United States had two years of grace, but the issue was squarely joined at that hour, as we now know. There was to be no peace until tyranny had been outlawed.

"Today we stand on the threshold of a new world. We must do our part in making this world what it should be—a world in which the bigotries of race and class and creed shall

not be permitted to warp the souls of men."

"We enter upon an era of great problems, but to live is to face problems. Our men and women did not falter in the task of saving freedom. They will not falter now in the task of making freedom secure. And high in the ranks of those men and women, as a grateful world will always remember, are the workers of all free nations who produced the vast equipment with which the victory was won.

"The tasks ahead are great, and the opportunities are equally great. Your government is determined to meet those tasks and fulfill those opportunities.

"We recognize the importance and dignity of labor, and we recognize the right of every American citizen to a wage which will permit him and his dependents to maintain a recent standard of living."

Secretary of the Navy Forrestal said Labor day provided a fitting occasion "for the armed services and for the citizens of the nation to express their gratitude to the American working man for his contributions toward victory."

"The German and Japanese war lords have complained bitterly that all their imperial spirit was inadequate to oppose America's material superiority — a superiority hammered out by labor's strong arm."



BROTHER FRANK BARR DIES

The Journal is in receipt of a Telegram notifying us of the death of our beloved brother, Frank Barr, a veteran member of the Plumbers' and Steamfitters Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Brother Barr was a veteran of World War I, a past president of the Plumbers' and Steamfitters Union, and also a past president of the Charlotte Central Labor Union.

In this time of bereavement, we would like to extend to his wife, his family and all who knew him, our heartfelt sympathy.

In these last words we say, farewell Brother Barr, though you have left our midst in body, your spirit will forever live in our hearts. A man that served his God, his Country, and mankind.

Funeral rites will be held at the cemetery at Union, S. C. Thursday afternoon at 5 p. m.

FLETCHER SEES UNEMPLOYMENT AS ONLY "TEMPORARY" IN N. C. DUE TO ABANDONED WAR PLANTS

RALEIGH, Sept. 2.—Unemployment in a major portion of the state's industries will be only temporary, and "if the old world keeps on an even keel, North Carolina will do all right during the reconversion period," Chairman A. L. Fletcher of the state unemployment compensation commission said yesterday. Any displacement of labor in the state's textile, tobacco, hosiery and furniture industries will be temporary and a steady employment over a long period of time is fairly certain, he said.

"Reconversion to goods for civilian use, of which there is a distressing shortage throughout the world, will take only a few days for our textile plants. Tobacco, furniture and wood-working plants generally have no problem at all."

In the matter of establishments that may be classified as 100 per cent war plants, Fletcher said, "we are experiencing now the effects of mass lay-offs. About 15,000 people have been laid off in North Carolina since announcement of the end of the Japanese war. These people must find jobs among us somewhere, and it is my hope that North Carolina industry can absorb them."

He said that industry should not be called upon to absorb a great many of the displaced workers—especially boys and girls of high school age, housewives who had never worked before and should now go back to home-making; and many older workers who were called back to machine and work bench for the emergency and who should now retire.

"In every community where one of the war plants has mushroomed into vast proportions overnight and has now collapsed just as suddenly, there is considerable fear and uncertainty. In over a dozen communities great factories, filled with expensive machinery, stand idle. There is no sign of life around them. One plant, which had over 5,700 workers 10 days ago, there now are three people in the office, three watchmen, and six mechanics." He was referring to the National Carbon company plant at Winston-Salem.

What to do with these great plants, he said, is a problem. Left vacant, "in a year they would be haunted by rats and bats."

"It seems to me that our department of conservation and development and our state planning board ought to be thinking and planning to make use of these buildings and as much of their machinery as can be used for peacetime production."

they can be saved now by the Labor Party, which is beginning to travel down the road towards extreme-ism. The handwriting is on the wall. Business, capital, political labor haters beware! The days are not

CHURCHES BACK LABOR IN LABOR DAY SERMONS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Churches throughout the nation held special Labor Sunday services this year upholding the right of the workers to the opportunity for gainful employment and a better life in the future.

Typical of the pre-Labor Day religious observances, was the message of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America which was read in many houses of worship.

Holding that the pattern of the future will depend very largely on the policies and the strength of the organized workers, the statement called for a guaranteed annual wage for all workers; an adequate and secure standard of living for all, based on full employment, a high level of production, good housing and adequate social insurance; elimination of discrimination in employment because of sex, race, creed or color; extension of workers education; and effective relocation of war workers in a peacetime economy.

"I'm sorry," said the diner, who hoped to get away with it, "but I haven't any money to pay for that meal."

"That's all right," said the cashier, "we'll write your name on the wall and you can pay the next time you come in."

"Don't do that. Everybody will see it."

"Oh, no, they won't. Your coat will be hanging over it."

Mose: "Did you know dat Jonah was three days in de stomach of a whale?"

Rastus: "Dat ain't much. Mah uncle was longer dan dat in de stomach of a alligator."

Mose: "Yo don't say! How long?"

Rastus: "He's dere yet!"

Prejudice: A lazy man's substitute for the drudgery of thinking.

BATTLE ON BETWEEN A. F. OF L. AND THE C. I. O. FOR CONFERENCE SEAT AT PARIS I. L. O. MEETING

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—A behind-the-scenes struggle between the AFL and CIO for the American worker's seat at the forthcoming International Labor organization conference in Paris is being waged within the administration. The appointment will be made by President Truman, on the recommendation of Secretary of State Byrnes and Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach. The conference begins October 15, and the choice must be made soon to permit preparation of the delegate and his advisers and for the necessary inoculations before travel.

Both big U. S. labor groups have high stakes in the outcome:

1. The American Federation of Labor, which has furnished the delegate since 1934 as this nation's only representative in the ILO, needs the place of order to hold onto its international role.

2. The Congress of Industrial Organizations, repeatedly rebuffed in the past in efforts to get a voice in the ILO, wants it more than ever this year as part of its effort to take the lead among American labor groups in the international field.

The AFL itself is reducing its participation in international affairs, although its leaders emphasize this does not spring from any desire to be isolationist. It is permitting the International Federation of Trade Unions, (IFTU) in which it also held the lone American seat, to dissolve without a fight, and it won't enter the new World Trade Union conference with the CIO and Soviet groups.

SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

Behind this is the emergence of the Soviet trade unions, with a total of about 25 million members, from the ashes of Europe to a dominant place in the international labor picture. The AFL won't tie up with the Soviets, saying the Russian trade unions are not free, that they are dominated by the government. The CIO is working closely with the Soviet labor leaders, inviting them to visit American war plants and is joining them, with British, French and Mexican groups, in the formation of the new World Trade Union Congress.

The IFTU likely will be dissolved at meetings in London September 3 and 4, in the opinion of AFL leaders, although President William Greene is watching with interest the action of the powerful International Transport Workers union, headed by Ernest Bevin, now Britain's foreign minister. This group has repudiated the proposed constitution of the World Trade Union Congress, which is to be acted upon in Paris at its all-important constitutional convention beginning September 25. The International Transport Workers are a power in the British trade union conference and in labor federations throughout the world. In the past they have, with the British and the AFL, dominated the IFTU.

The American worker's seat in the ILO has been occupied since 1937 by Robert J. Watt, the AFL's international representative. Along with him representing the U. S. over that period have been Henry I. Harriman, New England power company chairman who represents employer groups, and several government delegates. Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and Carter Goodrich have been frequent representatives of this government.

SOCIAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The ILO was founded largely

through the efforts of Green, the late Samuel Gompers and British labor leaders, as an adjunct to the League of Nations at the close of World War I. Failure of this country to participate in the league kept the AFL — then the only nationwide general labor organization in the U. S. — from joining up formally until 1934. Its principal function has been to keep abreast of social and economic problems throughout the world, and by joint action of government, labor and employers represented in its machinery, to raise the standard of living throughout the world.

The AFL leadership feels the loss of the worker's seat in the ILO conference might ultimately lead to the death of the ILO itself. With the CIO in, and the Soviet groups possibly pulled in by the CIO, the AFL says the ILO might be junked in favor of the new World Trade Union Congress which is more a creature of World War II. Efforts to make the WTUC a part of the security conference machinery at San Francisco failed, however.

CIO leaders say they have asked Schwelmbach for the worker's seat, or at least to share the vote with the AFL. A similar request to Miss Perks and the late President Roosevelt in advance of the Philadelphia conference of ILO last year was turned down, after Mr. Roosevelt persuaded CIO President Philip Murray that to press for a voice at that time would create too much hard feeling.

In addition to the actual worker delegate, however, there are five to eight advisers, whose expertise in given subjects in the conference agenda gives them practically as much influence (and frequently the vote) on questions in those fields.

Schwelmbach might decide to reappoint Watt as the delegate, naming CIO and other labor representatives to the adviser jobs.

The importance with which the whole international theater is viewed is indicated by the departure of the CIO's Sidney Hillman, chairman of the Political Action committee, for Paris last week, in preparation for the World Trade Union Congress sessions. He also would be available in the French capital for the early committee and organization meetings of the ILO.

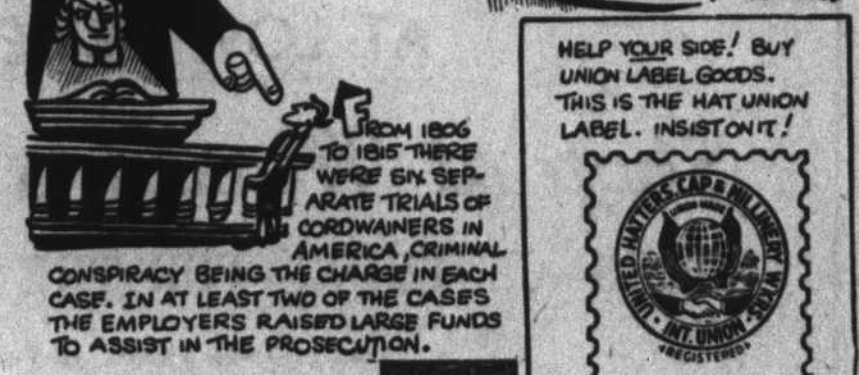
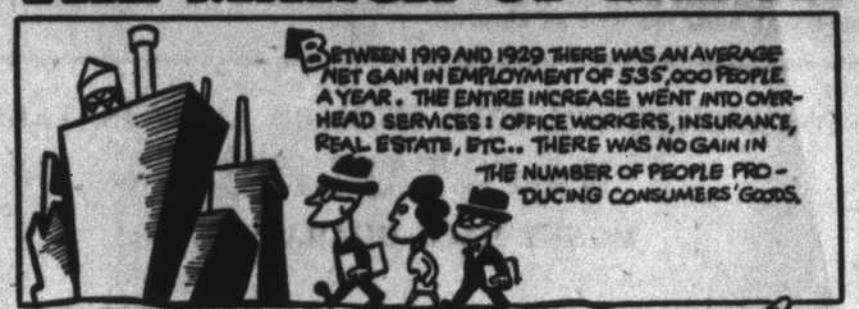
WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES

Fungus—"You mean they threw you out of the theatricals for no good reason?"

Wingus—"Well, I was acting as electrician, and in the quick-change scene the star called for her tights and I thought she said lights."

Never taking a chance is the chief way of making a failure.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



FROM 1906 TO 1935 THERE WERE SIX SEPARATE TRIALS OF CORDWAINERS IN AMERICA. CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY BEING THE CHARGE IN EACH CASE. IN AT LEAST TWO OF THE CASES THE EMPLOYERS RAISED LARGE FUNDS TO ASSIST IN THE PROSECUTION.