

**JOURNAL'S POLICY**  
The Charlotte Labor Journal welcomes suggestions and constructive criticism. Its object is to promote organization of the unorganized, to help bring about a better understanding between employer and employe, thereby gaining a better standard of living for the worker.  
Progress shall always govern The Journal's opinions.

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

(AND DIXIE FARM NEWS)

REPRESENTING A. F. OF L. MEMBERS IN CHARLOTTE AND VICINITY

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# AFL URGES END OF WLB, WAGE CONTROLS

## CONGRESS RETURNS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS TO VARIOUS STATES

"The return of their employment services to the various states should prove to be one of the most constructive moves made by Congress on behalf of business and industry," A. L. Fletcher, Chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission stated today when questioned as to the Commission's plans with regard to the Employment Service for North Carolina. The Employment Service, formerly functioned as a Division of the Commission before it was loaned to the Federal Government for the duration.

"Here in N. C.," Fletcher said, "our state administration has been considerably handicapped during the period the Employment Service, operated by the War Manpower Commission, has directed its energies to the recruitment of labor for war industries, sending many workers away from N. C. to other states. There is no longer any need for such national recruitment.

"Our own N. C. employers want help to run their businesses, their farms, their homes and their services; and we want to try to find suitable jobs at home for all workers who become unemployed during economic shifts.

"This Commission considers that finding jobs for unemployed workers is a prime responsibility and with authority to direct the Employment Service," Fletcher said, "we shall endeavor to have fewer workers drawing benefits for long periods."

"As clearing-houses for jobs and workers, local employment offices throughout the state hold the key to the orderly development of industry. It is our goal to build a sound structure of placement and benefit administration, consistent with the different needs of the different communities. It is out of local situations that national problems grow. If we can give satisfaction at home, there need be no national problem.

"Success of our reconversion program depends largely on the service John Smith, businessman, receives from the Employment Office, and how soon David Jones, worker, is relocated in a job that suits him. Consequently supervision of activities of local office personnel is of the first importance."

In this connection, Fletcher said the Commission will want to make some changes to conform to the rules of the State Merit System. While the Employment Service was operated by the War Manpower Commission, a number of appointments were made without Merit System approval, and these the U. C. C. cannot recognize. However, the Unemployment Compensation Commission has guaranteed re-employment rights to all employees connected with it before the Federal Government took over and who have continued as Employment Service personnel. Efforts are being made to bring back as speedily as possible, R. Mayne Albright, former Director of the Employment Service now absent on military leave and serving in Italy.

**Acres of Empty Desks**  
Washington (LPA).—A Washington reporter described the "acres of empty desks" in the War Dept.'s mammoth Pentagon Building here last week, and the explanation given. It seems that Army brass hats, afraid of losing rank if the men in their command are released from the service (a Colonel must have 15 officers under him to remain a Colonel) simply keep the underlings in the ranks. Since the men have no work to occupy them, they stay away. Result: acres of empty desks.

## National Casket Company Employes Win Important Gains

Philadelphia. — Important gains for employes of the National Casket Co. have been won as the result of the first joint contract negotiations conducted by the Upholsters' International Union (AFL) for Local 560, East Cambridge, Mass.; Local 412, Baltimore, Md., and Local 1928, Asheville, N. C.

In the conferences extending over more than two months, the local unions were represented by International President Sal B. Hoffmann, International Vice President William J. Heffernan, International Vice President Howard Litchfield, business representative of Local 560; C. F. Bradley, business representative of Local 1928; Ray Thieme, business representative of Local 412, and Organization Director Arthur McDowell. John T. McGillicuddy, a company vice president, represented management.

Among improvements in the contracts for the three locals are:  
Vacation pay was upped from 40

## Wage Boost of 15 Percent Rumored; Situation in Congress Is "Snafu"

Washington, D. C.—Wild speculation regarding changes in the government's labor policy enveloped the nation's capital as Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach struggled to quell the waves of reconversion strikes and Congress continued its sit-down against labor.

One of the rumors which gained increasing credence was to the effect that the War Labor Board, the Office of Price Administration and other agencies were under pressure by Schwellenbach to develop a new wage policy which would permit wage rate increases of 15 per cent immediately even if price boosts resulted.

This would require a new interpretation of President Truman's last Executive Order on wages or, perhaps, an amendment to that ruling.

It was reported that Secretary Schwellenbach was anxious to clear up threatening industrial disturbances promptly in order to create a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere for the forthcoming labor-management conference which is expected to recommend new procedures for the orderly settlement of industrial disputes.

Whether a flat 15 per cent increase in wage rates would prove satisfactory to labor at this time was considered problematical in view of the much larger losses in take-home pay suffered by workers as the result of loss of overtime and incentive bonuses.

Meanwhile, Congress made no move to do anything about emergency labor legislation urgently recommended by President Truman for "must" action.

Despite their conference with the President at the White House, members of the House Ways and Means Committee continued to bottle up the Kilgore Unemployment Compensation bill and there was no sign of its being rescued from the committee's pigeonhole.

The House Committee on Expenditures held hearings on the watered-down Full Employment bill

## MORE SOCIAL SECURITY ASKED BY ALTMAYER

Chicago—More liberal social security must be provided for the workers of America if "free enterprise" is to survive. That warning was sounded by Chairman A. J. Altmeyer of the Social Security Board in an address here to a large audience of business men at a meeting of the Chicago Association of Commerce.

Altmeyer called for highest unemployment insurance, sickness and disability benefits, extension of old-age annuities to millions not now covered, and other improvements in the present Social Security Act.

## UNIONS OVER U. S. SUPPORT VICTORY CAMPAIGN FULLY

Omaha, Nebr. — Full support of the coming Victory Loan drive, as well as a continuation of the Payroll Savings Plan, was given by members of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor — AFL, at their annual convention. The motion which was carried by the convention reads as follows:

"We have also had referred to our Committee for action a letter from the Treasury Department asking help in the Victory Loan Drive and continuance of the payroll savings plan. We feel that we have helped in the past drives and this should be continued. We would move that the Nebraska State Federation of Labor cooperate with the Treasury Department in the Victory Loan Drive and continue the program which has been carried out in the past."

J. J. Guenther, President, has assured Labor Unit officials of the War Finance Division, U. S. Treasury of the readiness of the Federation to co-operate in every way to make the drive a success in this state.

## New Frey Book Just Off Press

Washington, D. C. — Just off the press is a new history of trade unions by John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and one of the veterans of the labor movement. It is entitled "Craft Unions of Ancient and Modern Times."

The book traces the course of the trade union movement from its early beginnings in antiquity, thru the development of civilization and into their present-day structure in America. It appeared serially in the American Federationist.

Trade union history has been Mr. Frey's hobby for many years. He spent a great deal of time and effort and research in preparation of his material, which is presented with skillful and painstaking care.

Copies of the book may be obtained by writing of the Metal Trades Department, Room 402, AFL Building, Washington, D. C. The price is \$1.50.

## People, Spots In The News



"SHANGRI-LA," kept secret through the years, was used by President Roosevelt for weekend retreats. Located in Thurmont, Md., it was built in the 30's by the CCC and is 70 miles from the nation's capital.



NEW USE FOR OLD PRODUCT—Tile, which has assumed many important roles, this new one as table top. Result: Pam Jordan, 1, Matawan, N. J., is unworried over "spilt" breakfast. Swish of damp cloth will remove all damage.

## AFL Unions Actively Aid Veterans Survey By Federationist Shows

Washington, D. C. — AFL groups in many cities are performing notable services for returning war veterans, according to a survey published in the current issue of the American Federationist.

The survey gave honorable mention to the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, which has established a Veterans Service Center on the first floor of its labor temple under the direction of William Loohey, of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, who served in the first World War and is a member of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At the center veterans are given information as to their legal rights under veterans legislation, where to look for a job, how to get apprenticeship training, how to obtain loans, where to build a home and what union to join, if they wish to do so.

The Federationist article points out that the AFL called upon all its local affiliates to set up special committees to help veterans find employment and that the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights also has advised AFL affiliates to become active in community projects for veterans. The survey conducted by the AFL magazine disclosed commendable activities in the following cities:

**Boston** — Two AFL representatives take an active part in job counseling at the Veterans' Center.

**Buffalo** — The Veterans' Information Center is governed by a citizens' committee. The advice and cooperation of the AFL are solicited. All inquiries from veterans concerning AFL unions are referred to the Buffalo Federation of Labor or the appropriate local union. An AFL committee arranged a conference to set up a program of ap-

prenticeship training for veterans.

**Los Angeles** — The AFL helps to bear the financial cost of the city's Veterans' Center. During July the AFL Employment and Rehabilitation Section successfully handled 485 referrals.

**Portland, Oregon** — The Portland Central Labor Council has spent \$3,000 to furnish one floor of the new veterans' club, known as the George White Center. The Machinists Union presents each new member from the armed forces with a set of tools.

**Seattle** — AFL unions are active in all veterans' projects. An AFL member heads the city's Veterans' Referral Center.

**Aurora, Illinois** — The AFL is fully represented on the city's Council on Veterans' Affairs.

**Columbus, Ohio** — The AFL cooperated in setting up the Veterans' Service Center and an AFL representative is serving on the center's advisory committee.

**Dayton, Ohio** — An AFL representative is chairman of the Committee on Returning Veterans, sponsored by the Council of Social Agencies. The Dayton program is considered one of the best because of close coordination between all agencies.

**Frankfort, Kentucky** — AFL representatives are active in all community projects in behalf of veterans.

**Gary, Indiana** — The AFL helped to set up a Veterans' Service Center and is represented on its board of governors.

**Grand Rapids, Mich.** — The AFL assisted in setting up a Veterans' Service Center and is represented on its administrative committee. A committee of three serves with the center's personnel.

## Executive Council Acts to Free Labor From Regulation

CINCINNATI.—The AFL Executive Council called upon President Truman to permit the National War Labor Board to go out of existence and to remove all government controls over wages immediately.

The Executive Council acted as the President was consulting with members of the NWLB in Washington on the advisability of reviving the agency. The firm stand taken by the Federation's leaders was expected to halt any such move.

Wasting no time in getting down to business, the council opened its fall session by firing a broadside into the advocates of continued federal economic regulation. Of the life of the NWLB would result in increasing strikes and the threats of strikes, forcing labor and management to go to the government for the solution of their problems instead of settling differences through collective bargaining.

AFL President William Green told newsmen at a press conference that the Executive Council intends to formulate a plan that will reduce strikes to a minimum. He indicated that this plan will be submitted to the forthcoming labor-industry conference by the AFL delegates to that parley.

Mr. Green also revealed that the Executive Council had reaffirmed its decision of last August to forego a national convention this year. While the government's ban on conventions has been lifted since the last council meeting, the AFL leaders decided it would be impossible to make arrangements and obtain accommodations for a convention before the year ends. Therefore, the next AFL convention will take place in October of 1946.

In its statement on the NWLB, the council declared that the board had outlined its usefulness, that its authority had been weakened almost to the vanishing point and that new legislation would be needed to give its decisions force and effect now.

"Such legislation," said the council, "would usher in another period of government by emergency. The executive council believes the nation has had enough of that. The time has come to move in the opposite direction. The time has come for the people of America—including labor and management—to stand on their own feet instead of depending upon the government."

According to reports in Washington, the CIO was the only group to urge continuation of the NWLB.

Without mentioning any names, the executive council said in its statement

"Those who desire prolongation of the National War Labor Board have no confidence in themselves nor in the operation of the free enterprise system. They are ready to admit that the American way of life is a failure.

"The American Federation of Labor does not share these views. We firmly believe that the way to establish industrial peace and stability is to remove government control of wages immediately, instead of reinforcing it."

The council warned that government policies designed to prevent inflation already have resulted in deflation—"sharp deflation of the income of the nation's workers."

With wage earnings and take-home pay dropping suddenly below subsistence levels, it is no wonder that strikes are taking place, the council said.

Calling upon President Truman to adopt a new course, the council insisted that wage controls can be lifted while price control and rent control are continued until peacetime production and construction are expanded to meet public demands.

**IF THREATENED BY EVICTION—**

**Consult your OPA area rent office immediately**

**You cannot be evicted for refusing to pay more than the legal rent fixed by OPA**

**In most states, a tenant does not have to move until a court order is issued. An OPA eviction form is not an order to move... neither is the notice given to you by your landlord**

**EVICTIONS OF TENANTS LIVING IN A HOUSE OR APARTMENT WITHIN A RENT CONTROL AREA ARE LIMITED BY THE OPA**