

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 employee, 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)

A Newspaper Dedicated To The Interests of Charlotte Central Labor Union and Affiliated Crafts—Endorsed By North Carolina Federation of Labor and Approved By The American Federation of Labor.

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LABOR-MANAGEMENT PARLEY UNDER WAY

Administration Proposal Seen As Strong Clue To Truman's Policy For Wage Hikes Throughout Private Industry

Washington, D. C. — Leaders of labor and industry with the eyes of the nation upon them, opened an epochal conference called by President Truman for the formulation of a "broad and permanent foundation for industrial peace and progress."

The first two days of the meeting were given over to speeches in which the spokesmen for the various groups represented outlined their views.

Practicing what he preached to private industry, the President advocated a program under which Uncle Sam would give his faithful servants sufficient added income to meet increases in the cost of living.

The administration plan was unveiled before Congress by Civil Service Commissioner Arthur S. Fleming, Chairman Sheridan Downey, of the Senate Civil Service Committee, has introduced a bill for 20 per cent federal wage increases, indicated his committee would move from prompt action by Congress.

Fleming told the committee that the President had publicly branded government wages as "pitiful and inadequate." The Civil Service official added:

"The President's statement is a challenge to all of us who are connected with the government to raise our sights in terms of the things that need to be done in order to make the government stand out as one of the most progressive employers in the nation, and thus attract to its service and hold in its service persons of outstanding qualifications."

Fleming gave this justification of a flat 20 per cent increase in pay of white-collar employees whose salaries are fixed by the Classification Act:

1—That the average annual straight time earning of federal employees covered by the bill had increased from \$1,929 in January, 1941, to \$2,340 in July, 1943, or a percentage increase of 21.3 per cent.

2—The cost of living since January 1, 1941, he said, "has increased by approximately 30 per cent which means that there must be an additional 8 per cent increase in the present average annual straight time earnings of federal employees covered by this bill in order to make sure that their 1945 dollars will purchase as much as their 1941 dollars."

3—That 12 per cent additional is being asked in line with the President's statement Tuesday that "wage increases are imperative."

"We submit," he said, "that the government, as an employer, is being extremely conservative."

Fleming recommended far more liberal pay increases for government officials in the higher brackets.

He urged 100 per cent increases for members of Congress, from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year. Cabinet members would be raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000. The same boost was suggested for the speaker of the house and the vice president. Increases of \$10,000 a year were urged for Supreme Court justices and for judges of lower federal courts.

Government employes unions of the American Federation of Labor, which originally started the drive for higher pay rates, threw their full support behind the administration's program.

OUR ADVERTISERS

The Journal wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all those business firms of Charlotte who have co-operated with this newspaper in presenting the various messages relative to the Community War Fund and Victory Bond drive to the public through the advertising columns. All have demonstrated a real patriotic American spirit and we commend them to our government and to the public at large.

Soon a series of advertisements will appear in The Journal from business firms outside of Charlotte and we also extend to them our deep appreciation for their cooperative spirit.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO DRAFT POLICY FOR INDUSTRIAL STABILITY

AFL Leaders Will Consider Many Major Problems At Meeting

Cincinnati.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to draft a policy for the establishment of industrial peace at its meeting here which begins October 15.

The Executive Council's program will then be submitted by the AFL's delegates to the Labor-Management Conference, called by President Truman for November 5, as the basis of a new national labor policy.

Many other subjects will be considered at the fall session of the council, but the question of labor-management relations during reconversion and the ensuing post-war period is regarded as paramount.

The present unrest and disturbances which are delaying the reconversion program are troubling the leaders of the American Federation of Labor no less than the leaders of the government.

The AFL chiefs believe a way can be found for the orderly settlement of disputes in peacetime if the proper spirit of co-operation is developed between labor and management and if effective machinery is set up by the government.

One of the key factors in the present situation is the lack of a clear-cut wage policy. The entire subject of wage rates as compared with prices and with the shorter work week will be taken up by the Executive Council which is expected to issue a sharp declaration on the subject.

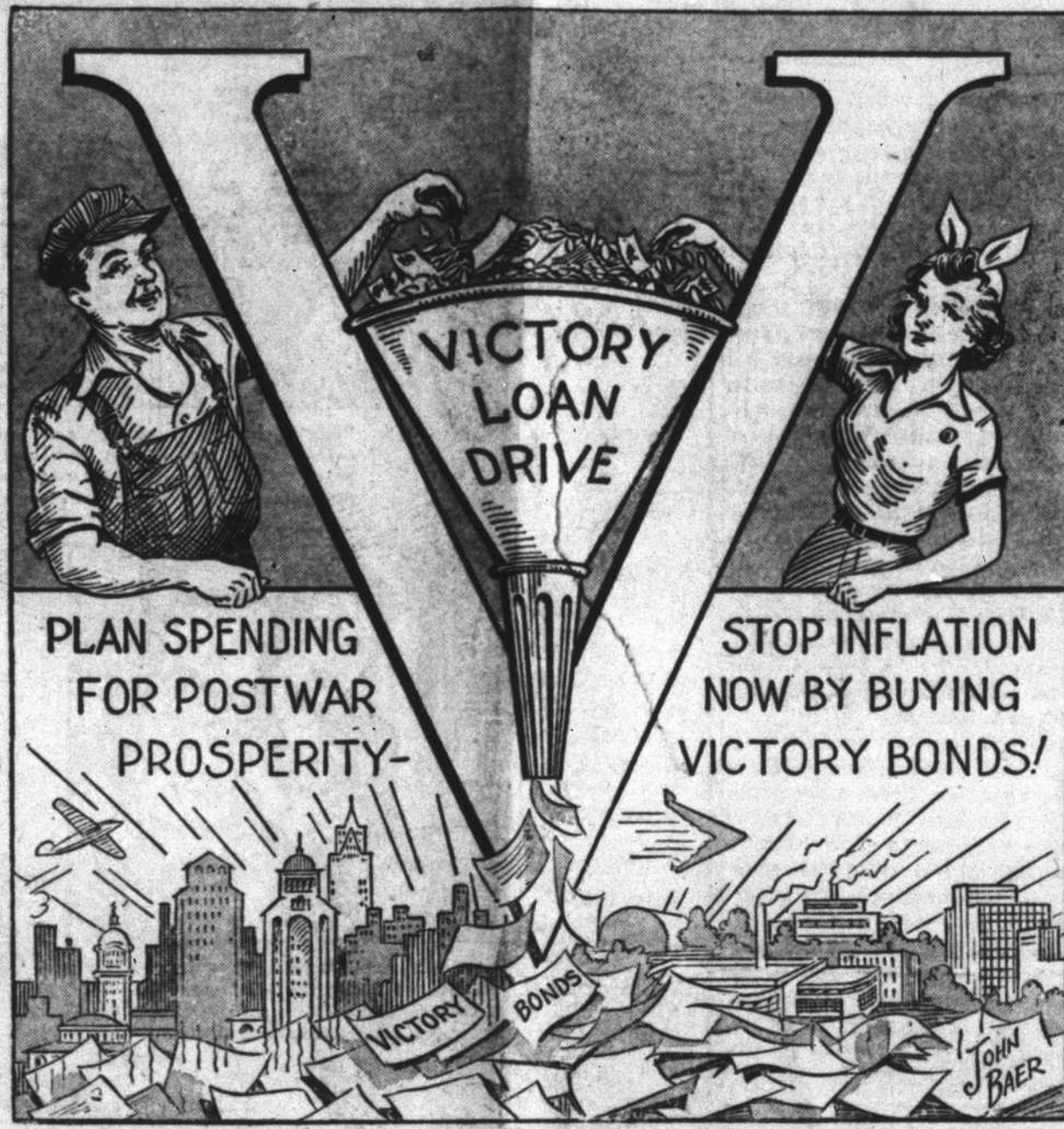
Entering into the wage picture is congressional action on taxes. It appears likely that Congress will vote substantial tax relief for corporations for 1946. The extra funds available to business can be used to increase wage rates without cutting into profits or affecting costs, in the opinion of many labor economists. The Executive Council also is expected to state its views with regard to the need for reducing taxes on low incomes so that the wage earners may obtain some direct relief.

The present attitude of Congress toward vital labor legislation, such as unemployment compensation and full employment bills, will be searched for by the council. AFL leaders feel that Congress has not only let President Truman down but the nation and its workers as well.

Another timely and important subject which the Executive Council may delve into is the status of world peace and America's relations with its allies in the war. The AFL chiefs may decide to speak their minds on the failure of the recent Foreign Ministers Conference in London and the fate of labor organizations in Europe if freedom and democracy are not quickly restored to submerged nations.

In this same connection, the failure of Great Britain to permit increased immigration of Jews into Palestine is expected to be considered at the council meeting. The AFL has consistently and strongly favored the establish-

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Vinson Warns Nation Against Losing Last Round Of War

Washington, D. C.—Pointing to the absolute need for a successful Victory Loan Drive, Treasury Secretary Vinson in a radio address opening the campaign on the eve of the drive warned against the danger of winning all the rounds except the last one and thereby losing the fight. His warning was a reference to the past seven successful War Bond Drives and the bulwark bond sales provided against inflation. From an inflationary point of view, Secretary Vinson pictured the Victory Loan as the most important of all. At the same time he cited the need for funds for meeting costs of mustering-out pay, medical care and education of veterans.

His address follows: "You and I are not alone tonight as we launch this Victory Loan. We are joined in spirit by those who made possible this occasion, the spirit of the American dead who brought us to this wondrous opportunity of building a better world. Thousands of Americans who fought for this opportunity lie beneath the earth of foreign lands and under the high seas. More thousands, seriously injured, are the living dead."

"Their sacrifices, patriotism and nobility are forever enshrined in the annals of our history and in our hearts. Their loss is an irretrievable loss. That cost is on the books for keeps. The war had other costs. Some of these, fortunately, we can

make good—can wipe off the books. Although these costs are also heavy, we can meet and conquer them.

"It is to conquer these costs that we are met here tonight, you and I, and your neighbor across the street, or down the road on the next farm. This Victory Loan is for us, the living, but the spirit of those who died is with us.

"How will the money you put in the Victory Bonds be used? It will pay the costs of bringing home our boys; it will be used for mustering-out pay; it will meet the cost of medical care for our injured; it will help our veterans to pick up their interrupted education or work. Putting your money into bonds, moreover, will build a sound economy for the Nation that will afford you a prosperous future. As we whipped the enemy overseas, we beat an enemy here at home—inflation. Inflation is the ogre that takes the power, the value out of your hard-earned money. There is one very bad thing about fighting this ogre: you have to beat him every round. It would be pathetic if, after beating him every round all through the war, we should now lose the last round and the fight.

"The challenge before us is great. It will be more difficult to meet the challenge because the drama is gone. Under the drama of war we pulled together and pulled hard. We must pull together and pull hard to turn back inflation and to

turn down the path of full employment, full production and high income. If we do this, we shall be prosperous, and prosperity is a prerequisite of lasting peace.

"A successful Victory Loan is a big part of this picture. A successful Victory Loan will help us on the long road ahead. It will help you in planning for your own future. And it helps to keep the faith with those who fought for a better world."

ODT Ban Lifted

Washington, D. C. (ILNS). — Lifting of the Office of Defense Transportation ban on conventions will mean holding of a number of union conventions this year. The International Association of Machinists has scheduled a convention for October 29, in New York City, with 1,200 delegates. Other unions are considering conventions, if arrangements can be made in next few weeks.

State federations of labor meetings, called off previously, are again being scheduled. One of the first to act was the Illinois State Federation of Labor, which will meet in 63rd annual convention at Springfield, October 29.

The American Federation of Labor is not planning a convention. The annual meeting was called off when travel restrictions were imposed several weeks ago.

Green Presents Four-Point AFL Program To Parley After Truman Opens Session With Plea For Accord

Washington, D. C.—President Truman gave the nation a clear clue to what he considers a fair pay increase for American workers generally when he threw the full support of his administration behind a proposal to lift salary scales of federal employees by 20 per cent immediately.

NORTH CAROLINA IS DEMONSTRATING ABILITY TO RECONVERT RAPIDLY

State Unemployment Chairman Analyzes Situation.

Raleigh.—In its reaction to the termination of the war, and the contract cancellations which followed, North Carolina industry is demonstrating its basic stability. This is the conclusion reached in a report, issued today by A. L. Fletcher, chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, analyzing certain aspects of the employment situation in this state since V-J Day.

The report shows that the number employed in North Carolina in war production plants exclusively, which does not include textile or food processing plants, reached approximately 70,000, and at the end of the Japanese war the number was around 30,000. Of this number, it was reported that 15,000 workers were released between August 20 and September 1. As about 10,000 workers are still employed in war production plants, the report figures that a total of 20,000 workers have lost their jobs in this state as a result of contract cancellations.

Analysis of the unemployment claims record since August 18 shows to what extent these released workers have found it necessary to apply for unemployment compensation. During the last week in October, there were 9,111 workers drawing benefits while seeking jobs. Included in this total are some 295 seasonal workers, so that the number of war-worker claimants may be taken as 8,186. Of this number 1,793 claimants are workers who lost their jobs in other states, later came to North Carolina and filed claims against the state in which they were last employed. This leaves only 6,393 North Carolina war workers on the jobless list, and of this number 5,759 are women.

Women, the Only Problem

Virtually all of these women acquired their labor skills in war work. Unless a new demand for such skills develops, these women may draw compensation for the maximum of 16 weeks without finding acceptable employment.

There remain, then, only 634 male workers released from war jobs out of a total of 20,000 including women, who were drawing benefits because new jobs had not yet been found for them at the end of October. But on the basis of the total number of claimants who have served waiting-period weeks since the end of the war, 14,780 persons could have been drawing benefits had they not become re-employed in the meantime.

Of the 10,000 still employed in war production plants, approximately 8,000 are in the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company plant at Wilmington, with prospects of continued employment well into if not throughout 1946.

It is evident, the U. C. C. report states, that reconversion in North Carolina is presenting no serious problem for those who were part of the active labor force and have skills which can be utilized in peacetime industry. What can be done about the women released from war work, or what they will wish to do, remains uncertain. Should they wish to remain in the labor market, occupational training along new lines must be considered, preferably before the exhaustion of their benefit rights under the Unemployment Compensation Law.

Veterans
What is of more concern in this state than the readjustment of war

AFL President William Green, in a powerful appeal for constructive action, proposed a four-point program including more scientific collective bargaining, development of union-management cooperation, improvement in the U. S. Conciliation Service and the extension of voluntary arbitration.

The labor-management conference was formally opened by President Truman who warned, in a brief address, that failure of the parley would mean regulatory legislation by Congress.

Speaking before a backdrop of massed green ferns in the lofty auditorium of the Department of Labor building, with thirty-six delegates and an equal number of alternates ranged at long tables facing him, the President in matter-of-fact tones called upon labor and industrial leaders to work as a "team" in drafting a "definite policy in the field of labor relations."

Emphasizing that this was a conference of labor and management, with the government not participating in a voting capacity, the President, nevertheless offered several broad suggestions.

The key to harmonious relations between unions and management, he declared, must be genuine collective bargaining. He said:

"I do not mean giving mere lip service to that abstract principle. I mean the willingness on both sides, yes, the determination, to approach the bargaining table with an open mind, with an appreciation of what is on the other side of the table—and with a firm resolve to reach an agreement fairly."

If bargaining produces no results, the President said there must be a willingness on both sides to use impartial machinery to reach decisions based on facts and in that way to prevent strikes and lock-outs.

He also emphasized the desirability of peaceful negotiation of contracts which should be faithfully carried out.

As a final point, the President urged that some substitute be found for jurisdictional strikes.

Turning to the industry delegates, the President warned:

"Management too often has looked upon labor relations as a stepchild of its business, to be disregarded until the controversy has reached a point where real collective bargaining becomes very difficult—if not almost impossible. It happens all too frequently that in the actual process of collective bargaining delaying tactics are practiced with the result that there is no real bargaining. There can be no justification for such tactics at the present time or in the future."

The President left immediately after his address which closed the morning session. In the afternoon, the conference resumed with brief addresses by Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach and Secretary of Commerce Wallace. Then Justice Walter P. Stacy, chairman of the conference, called upon President Green to lead off for the delegates.

Mr. Green emphasized at once that the conference should confine its deliberations to the seven points in the agenda seeking methods by which industrial strife can be reduced to a minimum. He warned against trying to inject current wage disputes or controversial legislation into the proceedings. If that is done, he declared, it "would make failure of the conference a foregone conclusion."

This marked a sharp difference of policy with the CIO whose President, Philip Murray, made it clear that his organization plans to drag in its difficulties with employers in current wage negotiations.

Mr. Green insisted that such matters must be settled by collective bargaining on an industrial or plant basis and not be injected into the national conference. He im-

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