

**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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## Washington Meeting Driving Toward Agreement

### Labor Press Asks For McArthur's Transfer To North Carolina

Hon. Harry S. Truman, President United States, White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

You are hereby most respectfully and sincerely requested to transfer General McArthur from Tokyo, Japan, to the South, with headquarters at Brevard, N. C., just as soon as the General has completed his work in Tokyo. We want him to institute in this Southland of ours that fine program for social reform which he has prepared for the Japanese people. We could think of nothing else that would be such a boon to the South as the adoption for our people of the program which General McArthur has prepared and presented to Jap rulers for adoption in Japan.

In that program the General says:

"The people must be freed from all forms of government secret inquisition into their daily lives which holds their minds in virtual slavery, and from all forms of control which seek to suppress freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of religion."

"Regimentation of the masses under guise of a claim of efficiency, under whatever name of government it may be, must cease."

**THE RULING**  
"In implementation of these requirements and to accomplish the purpose therein intended, I expected you to institute the following reforms in the social order of Japan as rapidly as they can be assimilated:

"1. Emancipation of the women of Japan, through their enfranchisement — that being members of the body politic they may bring to Japan a new concept of government directly subservient to the well being of the home."

"2. Encouragement of unionization of labor that it may be clothed with such dignity as will permit it an influential voice in safeguarding the working man from exploitation and abuse and raising his living standard to a higher level: with the institution of such measures as may be necessary to correct the evils which now exist in child labor practices."

"3. Opening of schools to a more liberal education—that people may shape their future progress from factual knowledge and benefit from an understanding of a system under which government becomes the servant rather than the master of the people."

"4. Abolition of the systems through which secret inquisition and abuse have held the people in constant fear—substituting therefor a system of justice designed to afford the people protection against despotic, arbitrary and unjust methods."

"5. Democratization of Japanese economic administration to the end that monopolistic industrial controls be revised through development of methods which tend to insure wide distribution of income and ownership of means of production and trade."

Mr. President, the South already enjoys Section No. 1, of the General's Japanese program, and our women folks do have the right to vote.

We sorely need Section No. 2, here in the South. While many of our industries are organized and labor works under union-management agreement in these organized places, a majority of our industrial establishments, practically all service trades remain unorganized. There are numerous

industrial establishments in the South, Mr. President, where the officers of the law join hands with the companies involved and with Vigilante Committees and Citizen's Committees and company stooges in opposing the organization of the workers. Armed thugs beat up our organizers at no infrequent intervals here in the South, that is, the South in the United States of America. As many of our Southern boys gave their lives in making it possible for General McArthur to offer the above fine program to the people of Japan, it does seem to us that we people of the South could at least have the same program which the General has outlined for the people of Japan.

We need the full provisions contained in Section No. 3, of the General's program for Japan. To obtain this, however, we need and must have Federal Aid for our public schools.

Section No. 4, of the Jap. program would be of great value to the working population of the South. Some of our states actually designate as public peace officers company-hired and company-paid "policemen" who go about in swashbuckling manner, armed to the hilt, creating and spreading fear among our people, and make life miserable for them. Oh, Mr. President, how sorely we need the General's program here in the South, especially in respect to Section 4!

It will seem strange to you, Mr. President, that here in the Southland, the home and hotbed of democracy, just how greatly we do need the provisions of Section 5. It will take all of the General's ingenuity to democratize economic administration here in the South, overthrow monopolistic industrial controls, and provide for wide distribution of income and ownership of means of production and trade.

It was our plan to take this matter up with you personally on your visit to the South, but since you have had to cancel your engagements, we are sending this open letter to you, urging you as our Commander-in-Chief to send General McArthur into the South at the earliest possible moment, and instruct him to put into effect here in your own country that fine program he has outlined for the Japanese people.

Sincerely and earnestly yours,  
**THE SOUTHERN LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION,**  
By James F. Barrett,  
Ex. Secretary.

**TRUCK DRIVERS SIGN WITH PET MILK CO. IN TENNESSEE**  
Kingsport, Tenn. — Business Representative J. J. Morrisette of Truck Drivers and Helpers Local Union No. 549, reported the completion of negotiations and signing of a closed shop agreement with the Pet Milk Company.

The contract covers all of the company's operation under the Teamsters jurisdiction at the Abingdon, Virginia plant and receiving stations at Sugarville, Tennessee and Rural Retreat, Virginia.

The 85 members covered by the agreement received an average wage increase of ten cents per hour across the board. They were also granted one week vacation with pay after one year of service and two week's vacation after three years. Any employee whose duties requires their working between 7 p. m. and 5 a. m. shall receive as additional compensation a premium of 5 cents per hour for the time so worked.



Sgt. Charles Gritski

Philadelphia, Pa.—Members of the Pennsylvania State Federation's Executive Committee—AFL, were thrilled by the dramatic appeal of Sgt. Charles Gritski for their support of the Victory Loan drive. Sgt. Gritski, a member of the Brotherhood of Operating Engineers and war hero, spoke at a special Victory Loan luncheon that was personally arranged by William H. Kern, State Director for Labor of the Pennsylvania War Finance Committee.

Sgt. Gritski (then a Cpl.) addressed the American Federation of Labor State Convention in Philadelphia two years ago. Gritski was one of the first casualties in the African invasion. He had practically lost the sight of his left eye; his entire abdomen was riddled by shrapnel; he suffered 38 severances of the intestines. In addition, his left arm was so mangled that it was the opinion of surgeons that there was little hope of saving it.

On his most recent appearance, however, Gritski had completely regained the sight of his left eye and through a long series of operations, skin grafting, and the insertion of silver tendons, he was given 25 per cent efficiency of his arm. His intestinal wounds had been thoroughly healed, also, through army surgery. Gritski thanked members of the Federation's Executive Committee for the support they had given War Bond campaigns which, he explained, had made possible his recovery. He further explained that in many cases more than the \$15,000 in surgical expenses necessary for his rehabilitation is required by many thousands of casualties in as serious a condition as he was. It has been estimated by the Bureau of the Budget that the rehabilitation of disabled veterans will cost almost four billion dollars a year for ten years.

### Poll Shows Majority Of Labor In Favor Of Voluntary Arbitration

The American Arbitration Association announces the results of a widespread polling of viewpoint on the question of Compulsory vs. Voluntary Arbitration. The opinions of corporations, labor unions, and a representative cross-section of the public are reflected in this poll. Instead of making a selected sampling from among a few hundred persons, over 35,000 ballots were distributed. One went to the head of each of the leading 10,000 corporations throughout the whole country as well as to each member of the various committees of the National Association of Manufacturers. Comparable complete coverage of labor unions was made. The public in the person of Government officers, professional men involved in labor-management relations and other individual cross-sections completed the total.

Over-all returns show that 69.7 per cent favor voluntary arbitration of labor disputes as against 30.3 per cent who favor compulsory arbitration.

Breaking it down into the various groups, unions voted better than 4 to 1 in favor of voluntary while corporations as a whole voted less than 2 1-3 to 1. A surprising factor was that the vote of the AFL Unions, while 3 to 1 in favor of voluntary, was a lower ratio than in the CIO which was well over 6 1-2 to 1 in favor of voluntary. The editors of Labor papers voted 8 to 1 in favor of voluntary. The professional group voted only 1 1-2 to 1, while miscellaneous personal expressions were just over 2 to 1 in favor of voluntary. In other words, the over-all vote in favor of voluntary arbitration is 2 1-3 to 1.

Those who voted in favor of the voluntary principle, where arbitration would be undertaken only when the employer and the Union agreed thereto, were asked to express an opinion as to how the arbitrators should be selected. Less than 4 per cent favored the Government providing arbitrators while 76 per cent favored selection by agreement of the parties. The remaining 20 per cent were in favor of the naming of the arbitrator in the first instance by some impartial agency — not Governmental.

### IBEW AND GEORGIA POWER COMPANY RENEW CONTRACT

Atlanta, Ga.—Local Union No. B84, and the Georgia Power company have renewed the agreement for another year, with numerous gains over the expiring agreement embraced in the new contract. The pay increase obtained amounts to \$10 a month. Non-shift workers will receive time and one-half for all Sunday work. All workers coming under the agreement will receive time and one-half for all time over eight hours a day.

The Stores Department has been organized one hundred per cent, and come under terms of the new agreement. Improvements were made in numerous instances, including a provision that all men working as pipelitters will now be rated as mechanics. President W. L. Chapman, Business Manager A. G. Kennedy, John Mann and Red Hash constituted the contract committee. This committee was ably assisted in the negotiations by International Representatives G. X. Barker, L. L. Dick and T. H. Payne.

### Substantial Progress Reported By Labor-Management Conferees

#### BARBERS LET MONEY TALK IN WASHINGTON VICTORY BOND RALLY

WASHINGTON. — Washington barbers let their money do the talking at a recent Victory Bond rally of Barbers Local No. 239—AFL—held at the Pythian temple here. Over 400 members of the local purchased \$10,000 worth of "E" Bonds on the spot. Another \$500 Bond was purchased from the treasury of the local. Speakers at the rally were George E. McKenna, vice president of the Journeymen Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmetologists' International Union of America, and Ernest Fontana, regional labor representative, War Finance division, U. S. Treasury.

Those attending the rally enjoyed a musical revue put on by service personnel from Walter Reed hospital and a moving picture, "Diary of a Sergeant," which stresses the importance of backing the Victory Loan drive for rehabilitating wounded returning veterans. Another rally will be staged later during the Victory Loan drive and confidence was expressed by Charles Bavello, business manager of the Local and chairman of the Victory Bond committee, that Victory Bond sales will top the \$35,000 Bond investment made by members of the local during the Seventh Loan drive.

#### PREMATURE WAGE RAISES GET APPROVAL OF NWLB

Unauthorized wage or salary increases which were put into effect before August 18, when the Government's wage policy was changed to permit increases without obtaining approval, will be considered as having been lawfully put into effect on that date, the National War Labor Board said in a unanimous resolution announced today. This will not apply, however, to the building and construction industry, which had been granted a 90-day exemption from government's policy of permitting increases without approval.

The effect of the Board's resolution is that none of the sanctions applicable to unauthorized wage or salary increases will apply to those unauthorized payments which are continued after August 18.

Wages or salaries which include an authorized increase or decrease are not deductible as costs for income tax purposes.

Wage or salary decreases are still subject to approval of the War Labor Board before they may be put into effect.

The Board's resolution follows: "Resolved, that where an employer prior to August 18, 1945, effected an unauthorized increase of wages or salaries, the continued payment of the increased rate after August 18, 1945 (except in the case of employers in the building and construction industry) shall be considered as an authorized increase made on such date and none of the sanctions prescribed by the Stabilization Act and regulations thereunder shall be applied in any enforcement proceeding on account of continued payment of such rate for the period subsequent to August 18, 1945." (Approved — November 1, 1945.)

Washington, D. C.—Substantial progress was reported by the Labor-Management Conference seeking to minimize industrial disputes as committees began drafting reports on specific recommendations.

The first major agreement reported by Conference Secretary George W. Taylor was on collective bargaining. All six conference committees have fully accepted the principle that collective bargaining is the primary and basic method of resolving disputes between unions and employers. Failure of employers to accede to this principle wrecked the labor-management conference held after the last war in 1919, Mr. Taylor said.

Another committee was reported unofficially to have reached unanimous agreement in favor of repeal of the Smith-Connally Act on the ground that it has increased industrial strife instead of reducing it. The American Federation of Labor fought this measure from the beginning and has never wavered in its opposition.

The committee on existing collective agreements, Mr. Taylor told newsmen, "appears to be in agreement that there must be some terminal point to grievance procedure if the agreement is to contain an effective no-strike, no-lockout clause." This is to prevent management from defeating the purpose of such agreements by delaying action on grievances interminably.

Improvement of machinery for settling jurisdictional disputes by the unions themselves is being explored by a third committee.

Hearings are being held by a fourth committee on ways and means of bolstering the United States Conciliation Service. Among the witnesses appearing before this group were Conciliation Service Director Warren and John Steelman, special assistant to President Truman.

The way was cleared for action by the conference on major issues when CIO President Murray was forced at a meeting of the Executive Committee to back down from his original demand that the conference pass upon pending wage disputes.

Mr. Murray explained that all he meant by his resolution on the wage question was for the conference to endorse collective bargaining on wages now and in the future.

"Of course, no one either on the labor side or on the management side is going to object to that," one delegate commented.

But, originally, the CIO sought to toss into the conference's lap all its current wage disputes in industry, automobiles and other industries. The delegates got the impression that Mr. Murray wanted the conference to fight the CIO's battles for it. John L. Lewis, delegate for the United Mine Workers Union, castigated Mr. Murray at a stormy session of the Executive Committee. AFL delegates took the same stand. Discovering he had no support, Murray retreated completely.

However, the CIO sought to propagandize the issue and make the nation's workers believe that the American Federation of Labor was not supporting higher wages.

AFL President William Green pointed out that the American Federation of Labor has led the fight for higher wage rates and that it is throwing its full support to affiliated unions in their attempts to negotiate wage rate increases with employers.

But such matters, he emphasized, must be decided through collective bargaining and cannot be injected into the labor-management conference which has no power to enforce its recommendations and has no authority or desire to establish a new, nationwide wage formula.

#### WPB TO ESTABLISH STATISTICAL RESEARCH ROOM IN WASHINGTON

To acquaint industry with the wealth of statistical information collected by the War Production Board and its predecessor agencies, the Civilian Production Administration will establish a statistical research room for a six-week period, November 15 through December 28, 1945. The exhibits will be open Monday through Friday of each week, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., in the Social Security Building, Washington, D. C.

During the war government received from industry factual reports on such matters as production, materials consumption and inventories which were invaluable in planning production for military needs and for the civilian economy.

Exhibits will include some material which could not be published during the war for reasons of military security, or could not be made available previously because of the pressure of war work upon WPB's statistical staff.

Officials emphasized that the material available for examination will not include any information relative to individual firms, because this information was given to the War Production Board on a confidential basis. Only summary facts will be presented.

In general, the material will be of four types: (1) blank copies of all application and report forms issued by WPB and its predecessor agencies, (2) copies of published tabulations drawn from these forms as returned by industry, (3) information indicating the extent to which other data have been tabulated but not published, and (4) estimates of statistical coverage on particular phases of industry.

To avoid overcrowding of the research room in the early part of its operation, persons intending to visit it between November 19 and 23 are asked to notify Mr. Albert A. Eisenstat, Chief, Industrial Statistics Branch, Civilian Production Administration, Washington 25, D. C., of such intention, and to name those operating units of WPB in whose statistics they are interested. Individuals who do not so notify Mr. Eisenstat by November 15, are requested to schedule their visits to the research room at some time after November 23.

#### CHARTER INSTALLED AT GREENSBORO CONE MILL

Greensboro, N. C.—Local Union No. 501, Operating Engineers, in the latest group to join the rapidly growing AFL movement in this city. The local was organized, charter received and installed, members and officers obligated and a committee named to negotiate with the management of Cone Textile Mills for an agreement. A. E. Brown, organizer, assisted the workers throughout the period of organization and served as installing officer when the Local was set up as a functioning body for these workers.