

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)

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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HOUSING SHORTAGE THREAT TO NATION

Workers Spurn Job Offers Because Take-Home Pay Is Cut In Half

WASHINGTON, D. C.—American workers who have lost their jobs since V-J Day are refusing to accept new employment offered them because the wages are from 34 to 53 per cent lower than they earned before.

This was announced by the United States Employment Service after a survey of conditions in three "typical" cities—Atlanta, Columbus and Trenton.

Labor surveys also disclosed that many discharged servicemen also are refusing to take jobs at cut-rate wages, preferring to get along on unemployment compensation until a better break turns up.

The Employment Service said there was no mystery behind the fact that available jobs are going begging while more than 1,500,000 persons are looking for work. The jobs now being offered, its studies disclosed, would mean a cut in take-home pay averaging from 34 to 49 per cent for men and from 49 to 53 per cent for women.

Explaining the USES said the lower-skilled jobs available paid lower wages, and a further cut resulted from reduction of the work-week from 48 to 40 hours.

The USES gave these other reasons in answering the question,

"why are there large numbers of workers seeking employment when there are also large numbers of job openings?"

1. The labor market was inflated during the war by inclusion of many workers who had learned only a single skill.

2. There are few, if any, peacetime jobs calling for these limited skills.

3. A sharp reduction in the number of jobs available in the skilled categories.

4. Most available jobs are for men while most of the job seekers are women.

The USES's last check, made several weeks ago, listed some 700,000 job openings for the country as a whole.

The report said that more than half the Atlanta men seeking unemployment compensation had earned more than \$50 a week on their latest jobs, "but such wages can be earned on only 12 per cent of the jobs open to men in Atlanta at the time of the survey."

In Trenton, more than 60 per cent of the male applicants earned \$60 a week or more on their last jobs, but 95 per cent of the available jobs paid less than this, while two out of three paid less than \$40, according to the USES.

The report said that in Columbus, a majority of male applicants had recent earnings of \$55 or more, "but now only 7 per cent of the jobs pay this much."

DECATUR TEXTILE LOCAL OBTAINS TOP AGREEMENT

DECATUR, Ala.—Local Union No. 88, United Textile Workers of America, AFL, has signed an agreement with the Goodyear Decatur mills which is said to be the only textile local union in the South to obtain the War Labor Board's textile peg points, either by agreement or through WLB order. R. O. Ross, regional director for A. F. of L. in charge of the Birmingham office, assisted the local union officials and committee in negotiations with the company and before the WLB. Mr. Ross has sent a letter of commendation to President William P. Lee and the local committee of No. 88 for their united efforts in obtaining this top flight agreement for their membership.

UNION GIVES CARDS TO SERVICE HOSPITALS

Chicago. — Earl W. Jimerson, president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, announced that the union has presented 5,000 decks of playing cards to 60 army and navy hospitals for the diversion of convalescing servicemen.

HOD CARRIERS AND COMMON LABORERS GET WAGE INCREASES

ATLANTA, Ga.—John S. Turner, representative of Hod Carriers and Common Laborers, announces the following wage increases from the Wage Adjustment Board for Building and Construction Work, U. S. Department of Labor, for Clayton, Fulton and DeKalb counties, Georgia, on the following classifications:

Air Tool Operators from .75 to .80; Laborers, unskilled 50 to .65; Mason Tenders .57 1-2 to .75; Mortar Mixers from .57 1-2 to .75; Pipe layers, concrete and clay, .70 to .75; Plasterers' tenders .57 1-2 to .75; Carpenters' tenders .57 to .70. The above adjusted rates are authorized for members of Construction and General Laborers Union No. 438, to apply on non-Federal building, heavy and highway construction work. It was also the decision of the Board to recommend recognition of the above authorized rates in the next wage determination issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the amended Davis-Bacon act, with respect to Federal building and heavy construction work in the above counties.

AFL Unions Propose Parley To Promote Better Government

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A proposal for a labor-management conference to promote better government was submitted to President Truman by the Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor.

In a letter to the President, Foster J. Pratt, secretary-treasurer of the council, said:

"In the past, various 'experts,' many of them actually subsidized by large corporations, have managed to set themselves up in the center of governmental operations and to radiate their assumed influence to the best advantage of themselves. Now, that the war is over, it seems entirely possible that this same influence will be to bear to take over the influential zones of government. It is the fervent hope of this council that if there now are plans or if any plans soon are to be unfolded in this direction that the leaders of

this council may have the courtesy of a consultation before they are adopted or announced.

"We believe the subject of better government is of such vital interest to the President of the United States that you may want to consider the announcement of and convening at an early date of all leaders of whatever persuasion to general conference in Washington to turn their attention to suggestions to be submitted to you to bring about efficiency in all phases of executive government.

"Certainly the Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor stands prepared to bear its portion of responsibility of any assignment which you determine as result of setting up such conference. If you will be good enough to indicate your desire to call such a conference at a convenient date, rest assured this council will remain on call."



Major Moore arriving in San Francisco. Pictured left to right: William Ring, Field Representative for Western States, War Finance Division, U. S. Treasury; Major Moore; his mother, Mrs. Moore and Mr. George T. Moore.

V V-For Victory and Vindication

Hoten Ex-Prisoner of War Camp, Mukden, Manchuria, August 19, 1945.

Dear Mom, Dad and Gram:
At the present moment I am sitting here in a quandy at a complete loss as to how to begin. After 44 months it's all over.

Today is Sunday. I have just come back from a Thanksgiving Mass, at which I received Communion. Needless to say I offered it up in thanksgiving for bringing me safely through.

Yes, I am safe and well. Safe for the first time in three and one-half years. There are not many of the "Boys of Bataan" left now. But through battle and prison (which makes battle seem like a Sunday School picnic) somehow I have been spared. You must have been busy with your prayers.

The details of my experiences can wait until I see you. However, a rough idea . . . During the fighting in Bataan I served with and commanded good old Company "I" 45th Infantry (PS). Our Battalion participated in three engagements—Abacay, Quinauan Point and the Pantigan River. After the surrender (at which I cursed like a trooper and cried like a baby), I was in the Death March out of Bataan. (I've been in all the main acts). Then to O'Donnell P. O. W. Camp (1,600 died in two months of starvation, disease, etc.). Next to Cabanatuan Camp (over 2,000 there). Then by Prison ship to Davao Penal Colony, Mindano where we worked like coolies in jungle and rice paddy. Back in the hold of a prison ship to Manila. (Only one

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Great Need For Co-operation Labor-Management Stressed; Government Is Asked To Aid

Maternity And Child Health Bill Endorsed

WASHINGTON, D. C.—AFL President William Green informed Chairman Murray of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor that the AFL Social Security Committee has endorsed the Pepper bill providing a program for maternity and child birth. In a letter to Senator Murray, Mr. Green said:

"Our membership, which has always concerned itself with the broad social needs of the nation, has been profoundly shocked by the report that 40 out of every 100 men examined by Selective Service were found unfit for military service because of physical and mental defects, many of which could have been corrected or prevented in childhood.

"This startling fact demands prompt and drastic action by the Federal government to put within reach of every one of its citizens good medical care and health services. We believe the passage of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill will achieve this urgent objective and are giving unremitting support to that measure.

"Without relaxing our efforts to obtain the passage of that bill, we are persuaded that action must be taken without delay on S. 1318 which would be a first step in building a comprehensive national health program by placing medical care and welfare services immediately within reach of all mothers and children.

"Two emergency situations make immediate action on S. 1318 necessary. One is the imminent termi-

Washington, D. C. — Harry C. Bates, chairman of the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor, warned that "the housing shortage is about to become the number one threat to the American postwar standard of living with homelessness a reality for American families in thousands of communities within a year."

Speaking before the meeting of the National Association of Homebuilders at the Statler hotel here, Mr. Bates called for "close and positive working co-operation among homebuilding enterprise, homebuilding labor and the government toward achieving a long-range goal of unified national housing policy, which would enable private enterprise and local initiative to make a maximum contribution to the welfare of the entire people."

A summary of Mr. Bates' statement follows: "Intolerance overcrowding is already a reality most of our communities are witnessing today. Tomorrow holds a real threat of actual homelessness to many American families. Over 1,500,000 married veterans are already in immediate need of homes. More than 1,500,000 returning veterans are expected to marry and establish new homes within next year, but will find no place to set up new households. Some 3,000,000 new homes will therefore be sought in the course of next year by veterans alone, with a prospect of not more than 400,000 to 500,000 built next year and most of them at prices out of reach of the veteran. There is no blinding of the fact that the housing shortage is about to become the number one threat to the American post-war standard of living. That threat must be met with promptness and courage through a co-operative effort of building business, labor and the government.

"Among the immediate problems facing us now, the foremost is that of an inflationary price boom. We must avert the danger of (1) a large mass of our families being priced out of homes; (2) the homes to be built being priced out of reach of the mass market; and (3) the homebuilders being priced out of investment opportunities with workers being priced out of jobs.

"Real estate and home-price inflation cannot talk ourselves into price stability. Nor can the problem be equitably solved by snap judgment. The American Federation of Labor and the Building Trades department are now making a careful and searching study of ways and means to meet this complex and challenging problem.

"The building trades are doing their full part to assure an adequate supply of labor in all classes of skills to meet the demand for an expanding homebuilding program in all parts of the country.

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WEYLER POINTS TO DANGER AHEAD UNLESS LABOR ACTS AT ONCE

PADUCAH, Ky.—Secretary E. H. Weyler, of the Kentucky Federation of Labor, says our "economy cannot stand another depression without winding up with a military dictatorship." He spoke here in completing a whirlwind campaign, which has taken him into every principal city of the State, sounding as the keynote of his masterful appeal the following:

"A job for every man and woman who wants to work should be the primary objective of Congress in the months ahead. It's up to us, the members of organized labor, to see that Congress really represents the will of the people and votes through a vigorous program of full employment.

Our economy cannot stand another depression without running the risks of getting a military dictatorship inside of 10 years. If we have to go through another period like we did in the '30's, with our citizens standing in bread lines and our veterans selling apples on the street corners, our economy will collapse and reactionary elements in the country will rise up to take over. Our people will be so desperate they will be willing to follow and demagogue who promises them jobs. Brothers and sister, it is up to us to get our representatives in Washington to see the folly of their do-nothing attitude toward the Murray Full Employment Bill or worse yet, the sabotaging of the bill through attempting to kill it with crippling amendments. We must act; we must act fast; we must let our Senators and Congressmen know that the only alternative to full employment is economic disaster."

TALLAHASSEE PRESSMEN OBTAIN INCREASE OF \$12.50

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Local Union No. 198, Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union, AFL, negotiated a renewal of union contract here with the Rose Printing company which provides for an increase in wages of \$12.50 a week. George O. Baker, representative of the Pressmen's International, assisted the local's president, Robt. W. McCreary, and the scale committee in the negotiations.

Clothing Industry's Strike Forces New Price Boost

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The clothing industry has pulled a successful strike against the government and the nation's consumers. Refusal of manufacturers to produce lower-priced garments finally forced the Office of Price Administration to grant the industry another 15 per cent increase in ceiling prices for such merchandise as underwear, pajamas, hosiery, shirts and handkerchiefs.

When labor strikes, the newspapers and Congress go into connivance—but apparently it's perfectly all right for industry to employ the same tactics because organized labor was forced to carry

on a lone fight against the price increases.

For the past two years the OPA has tried to keep cheap clothing prices at about their 1943 levels, which were, of course, marked away up from prewar standards.

The OPA excused its change of policy by pointing out that most of the affected items had disappeared from the market, leaving only the highest-priced merchandise available to purchasers. Under the revised order, the OPA said, the lower priced garments will again become available, although the retail selling prices will be "slightly" higher.



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