

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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Compulsory Cool-Off Bill Urged By Truman Message To Congress

90-DAY BAN ON STRIKES AND FACT-FINDING BOARD OPPOSED BY AFL

Washington, D. C.—Taking the nation by surprise, President Truman recommended, in a special message, that Congress enact legislation patterned after the Railway Labor Act to prevent strikes throughout private industry.

His plan called for a compulsory cooling-off period of 90 days, during which strikes or lockouts would be unlawful, whenever the Secretary of Labor certifies to the President that a pending dispute threatens the public interest and that collective bargaining and conciliation have failed to effect a settlement.

The legislation would empower the President to appoint special fact-finding boards in each case which would investigate the dispute during the cooling-off period and make public a report and recommendations within 20 days.

The President's plan was greeted coolly by organized labor, but the stock market jumped from 1 to 5 points when it was announced.

AFL President William Green commented:

"In my judgment, the recommendations of the President will be unacceptable to labor. The principles and policies of the Railway Labor Act are in no way suited to private industry as a whole. The plan proposed for fact finding will operate disadvantageously to both employers and workers in many cases. The American Federation of Labor cannot approve this legislation."

The President acted almost immediately after the end of the Labor-Management Conference and his recommendations reflected the belief in Administration circles that the conference had failed to produce workable machinery to assure industrial peace.

Suggestions similar to those contained in the President's message had been considered by the labor and industry delegates, but did not find favor with them. The opposition was stronger in labor circles than in the management field.

In his message the President specifically urged that the cooling-off and fact-finding machinery be applied to such industries as steel, autos, aviation, mining, oil, utilities and communications.

While the President emphasized this list was not intended to be complete or exclusive, he added: "The general pattern of that act (Railway Labor Act) is not applicable to small industries or to small local disputes in large industries. The objective should be to cover by legislation only such stoppages of work as the Secretary of Labor would certify to the President as vitally affecting the national public interest."

The procedure outlined by the President follows:

After certification of a dispute,

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AFL Hits At Military Bill

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor took a firm stand against universal military training legislation.

Heading a group of union spokesmen called to testify at hearings on the proposal, Lewis G. Hines, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, asked the House Military Committee:

"May we in all fairness ask, preparedness for what? If we are on the brink of another war, should we not have the right to demand with whom, when and where?"

The AFL, Hines told the committee, believed preparedness should be accomplished through more adequate physical care for the children of the country, sufficient medical service for everyone, "an efficient military intelligence system" and an "eternal vigilance on the part of the State Department and the elimination of a policy of appeasement such as was followed previous to the attack made upon us by Japan."

Hines urged that congressional action on peacetime training be deferred until after demobilization of the armed forces and until the completion of treaties and international commitments "and the outcome of efforts to insure world peace."

Opens Drive For Housing Legislation

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor opened an all-out campaign before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee for prompt adoption of the Wagner - Ellender - Taft Housing Bill.

Main witnesses at the opening of public hearings were AFL President William Green and Vice President Harry C. Bates, head of the Bricklayers Union and chairman of the AFL's Housing Committee.

Housing is the core of the nation's postwar economy and will provide the very foundation of our standard of living in the next decade, Mr. Green told the committee.

He emphasized that passage of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill is indispensable to the assurance of full employment in the years to come.

"If we fail to launch a comprehensive attack on postwar housing,

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Labor Journal To Publish Christmas Number December 20th

The Charlotte Labor Journal will publish a special Christmas edition on December 20. The issue will give the business firms of Charlotte and North Carolina, and also some firms from outside the State, an opportunity to express their Yuletide greetings to friends and customers in their respective communities, where this newspaper circulates. Our advertising representatives have been busy for several weeks making necessary preparations and soliciting advertising for The Journal's holiday number, and if by any mistake you have not been called upon for an advertisement in this or the New Year's number a telephone call to 3-3094 will summons our representative to wait upon you. If your advertisement is received too late for the Christmas paper we will place it in the issue of December 27 in the New Year's greetings. Thank you.—The Editor.

Plan To End Disputes

Pledge Aid To Postal Workers

Washington, D. C.—A new and very effective form of collective bargaining was instituted by President William C. Doherty of the National Association of Letter Carriers at a dinner given by the union in honor of Postmaster General Hannegan.

Gathered around the festive board were many leading members of Congress, including members of the Senate and House Post Office committees which must pass on legislation affecting the welfare of postal employes. Prominent AFL officials, including President Green, Secretary-Treasurer Meany and several members of the executive council, also attended.

And here's what happened! Without any of the union officials bringing up the subject or even hinting at it, the Congressional leaders and Postmaster General Hannegan, of their own accord, pledged themselves to support a new pay bill increasing the salaries of all postal workers in order to make up for the loss of overtime and take-home pay.

Chairman Burch of the House Post Office committee stated flatly that his committee "is going to do something satisfactory about increasing that take-home pay for postal workers." Senator Mead said, "you can count on me to help" on higher pay legislation. Postmaster General Hannegan chimed in that he "certainly favored whatever legislation Congress may see fit to enact" for higher pay.

Washington, D. C.—Approval of a plan to end jurisdictional disputes within its own organization was announced by the executive board of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters of the United States and Canada.

President Martin Durkin disclosed that the proposal, which is designed to eliminate jurisdictional rows between steamfitters and plumbers, will be submitted for final adoption to the next convention of the United Association in September, 1946.

Under the tentative agreement, members of the union would be permitted without bar or restriction to perform all work covered by the union's jurisdiction, thus wiping out previous lines of demarcation between plumbers, steamfitters and other pipelayers affiliated with the United association.

It is further proposed to change the name of the union to the "United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada."

"We regard this plan as an opportunity to strengthen and harmonize our union and wipe out the root cause of unnecessary jurisdictional disputes," Mr. Durkin said. "I am confident that it will be overwhelmingly approved at our next convention."

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BUY VICTORY BONDS

Executive Council Assails Three Dangerous Measures



WILLIAM GREEN President of the American Federation of Labor, marshals labor and its friends against vicious anti-labor proposals before Congress.



GEORGE MEANY Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, warns America against vague actions of Russia.

EMERGENCY MEETING HITS PENDING BILLS AND URGES THEIR DEFEAT.

Washington, D. C.—At an emergency meeting in the nation's capital, the AFL Executive Council blasted anti-labor and anti-strike bills pending before Congress and mobilized the entire resources of the American Federation of Labor to defeat them.

Summoned here by AFL President William Green because of the threatening legislative situation, the Executive Council made the following measures its chief targets:

1. The Norton Bill, making strikes illegal when certified to the President by the Secretary of Labor for consideration by fact-finding boards.

2. The Connally - Smith Act amendments, which would penalize unions for strikes by depriving them of their collective bargaining privileges for a year and making them liable to damage suits.

3. The Hobbs Bill, which would cripple efforts of the Teamsters Union to establish conditions for the protection of its members in large cities.

The Executive Council directed Mr. Green to lead an all-out labor drive against these bills. It also called upon all affiliated organizations and all members of the AFL to let their representatives in Congress know immediately that labor will consider a favorable vote for these measures a hostile act.

Mr. Green will open a sweeping campaign to defeat the Norton bill with a powerful statement to be presented at a public hearing of the House Labor Committee.

This will be followed up by personal interviews by legislative representatives of AFL unions with members of Congress and by a slashing attack on the pending measures over the AFL's nationwide radio programs.

Hearings on the Norton bill in the House opened with a two-day labor - management onslaught on the legislation which was recommended, in the first place, by President Truman.

John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers Union, was the first witness. He declared unequivocally that he will fight to the limit against the proposal because it deprives labor of its basic liberties.

For management, Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, was the first to be heard by the House Labor Committee.

He expressed opposition to the bill because it would inure free

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Meany Demands Showdown With Russia; Also Attacks Anti-Labor Campaign Here

Metal Trades Seek Raises

Harrisburg, Pa.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany called upon the American Government to lay its cards on the table with Soviet Russia and make it clear to them that "we do not want to push them around nor let them push us around."

In a challenging address before the Pennsylvania Council of Public Employes which presented to him its annual award "for the individual making the most outstanding contribution to the welfare of the workers," Mr. Meany made a fervent appeal for international peace and for industrial peace here at home.

"We want peace," he said, "but we don't want peace at the price of having Commissars giving orders at the White House. If the Russians are sincere in their asserted desire for peace and world co-operation, they ought to welcome frank and sincere talk along these lines.

At the same time, Mr. Meany threw down a blunt challenge to the "forces of reaction" here at home, whom he accused of a subtle campaign to injure the trade union movement by campaigning for compulsory anti-labor legislation in the name of industrial peace.

"The American Federation of Labor is not going to be fooled by any propaganda on this subject," he declared. "We do not propose to sit still in the face of proposed legislation that in any way compels workers to work for even one minute against their will. We are not prepared to accept even a little bit of slavery. We intend to remain wholly free."

Mr. Meany did not pull his punches in discussing the activities of the Communists internationally or domestically. He said: "The philosophy that might makes right has never, in the past, brought us permanent peace. History tells us that power politics cannot bring peace. Our own capacity to remember, even for a short time back, tells us that peace cannot be purchased by appeasement. The time has come for a real effort to achieve permanent world peace on the basis—yes, the only possible basis, of international morality and justice. The entire world looks to the United States of America for moral leadership in this effort."

"Our representatives in Washington must accept this challenge. To pretend that we do not know that millions of people in Eastern Europe are today victims of a dictatorial tyranny with all the old familiar trappings used by Hitler and his mob would be an act of na-

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Colorado Springs, Colo.—Wage boosts for the nation's shipbuilders to help them meet the increased cost of living were demanded by AFL metal trades leaders here at the National Shipbuilding Conference.

Representatives of labor, management and government were in attendance at the meeting, the first held since 1942 when the National War Labor Board took wage reviews in the shipbuilding industry.

President John P. Frey of the AFL Metal Trades Department said:

"We are going to ask this conference to restore to the shipyard worker to real wage he had in 1941."

Frey called on the government to live up to its pledge to allow wage increases if the cost of living went up. He pointed out that since April 1, 1941, shipyard workers, with the exception of those on the Gulf of Mexico, have received only a 7.1 percent increase, declaring it was "extraordinary that labor has been as quiet under that condition as it has been."

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AFL And House Group Fight Anti-Strike Bills

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor joined a bi-partisan group of liberal Congressmen in an effort to head off vicious anti-strike legislation now pending in the House of Representatives.

A special, but informal meeting was called by House Rules Committee Chairman Albert J. Sabath at which the Congressmen, consulted with the top leaders of labor on ways and means of blocking passage of hasty and ill-considered legislation proposed by the anti-labor bloc headed by Representative Smith of Virginia.

AFL President William Green and several other labor leaders addressed the meeting.

Support from two outside sources helped to rally the spirits of the conferees. Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, obviously

referring to the pending House bill, warned in a radio address against "hasty or ill-conceived" legislation in the wake of the Labor-Management conference.

"We must not allow the pressures of this difficult moment to stampede us into national policies which we will have cause to regret and bewail later," Mr. Johnson said.

Similarly, in his message to Congress on fact-finding, President Truman expressed the hope that Congress "will not adopt repressive or coercive measures against either side."

Meanwhile, the AFL redoubled its efforts to defeat the pending Smith bill and the Hobbs bill by appealing to all affiliated organizations and members to write letters to their Congressmen opposing these measures.

Physicians Forum For Medical Care Measure

New York City.—The Physicians Forum strongly endorsed establishment of a nation-wide health and medical care program to supply the medical needs of all Americans, thus taking issue with the American Medical association.

The Physicians Forum is a national organization of doctors, all members of the American Medical association, who are interested in the extension of good medical care to all the people. In a telegram to President Truman, Dr. Ernest P. Boas, chairman of the Physicians Forum, said:

"Our membership, composed largely of practicing physicians

throughout the country who belong to the American Medical association, most warmly commend you for your able and comprehensive message to the Congress on the state of the nation's health. You have made a telling presentation of the many unmet medical needs of the country, and have rightly pointed out that the masses of our citizens do not earn enough money to buy adequate medical care.

"We earnestly hope that the people of the country, through their Congress, will take immediate action to improve these conditions in accordance with your worthy proposal."

WE MADE IT! How about YOU? OUR VICTORY LOAN QUOTA

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