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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.

SECTION ONE

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Pages

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.

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Labor Smashes Blitz Drive For Anti-Strike Measures

Churchmen Say Imported Workers Have Lowered Labor Standards

Washington, D. C. — Workers from Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas imported into this country three years ago to meet an alleged labor shortage, have lowered the standards of American workers. So assert a group of distinguished churchmen, representing the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, in a startling statement. These workers, despite safeguards established for their protection, have been badly treated, the statement says. The railroads were singled out as having viciously exploited Mexicans brought in for work on the tracks. The church leaders warn that efforts are being made at Washington by the railroads and other industries to keep these workers here. The situation of American migratory workers, the statement insists, is already bad enough, with-

out making it worse by forcing them to compete with aliens who are unable to protect themselves. "These workers," the churchmen declare, "are the most depressed group in the United States. They are denied decent housing, health and educational facilities. Irregular employment and inadequate wages are other evils inflicted on them." The churchmen demand that migrants be protected by bringing them under the Wage and Hour Act and the Social Security Act. Low wages and bad conditions, it is asserted, are the chief obstacles to securing a labor supply on the railroads, on the farms and in canning and other industries which have had the benefit of the labor of 62,000 imported Mexicans and 20,400 workers brought in from the West Indies.

Labor Unions Organize For March Of Dimes Jan. 14-31

Organization of national labor unions into the fund drive for 1946 March of Dimes, to be conducted January 14-31 by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, was announced recently from the office of Basil O'Connor, President of the National Foundation.

Appointed co-chairmen of the National Labor Division are William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor; Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations; and Thomas C. Cashen, Chairman of the Railway Labor Executives Association.

In the past, these unions have actively supported the March of Dimes through their own fund-raising organizations. In 1945, AFL members contributed \$162,330.93 to the National Foundation. CIO members raised \$95,786.85 in the same period. Independent unions contributed \$8,938.40 during the year. These figures are exclusive of individual donations made at movies and other public functions.

Green and Murray have served as co-chairmen of the National Labor Division since the founding of the organization in 1938 by the late President Roosevelt. Cashen served as a labor co-chairman in the 1945 drive.

Of all contributions to the annual March of Dimes, half remains with local chapters of the National Foundation for equipment, transportation, hospital treatment and care of poliomyelitis patients, regardless of age, race, creed or color. The other half goes to the National Foundation for research, education and emergency aid during epidemics.

In a letter of acceptance to (Please Turn to Page 4)

AFL UNION WINS TWO ELECTIONS IN RICHMOND

Richmond, Va. — (SLPA) — After a long drawnout fight with the CIO, which finally headed into the Federal courts, the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL won a Labor Board election in the plant of Larus Brothers, Inc., last week. The vote stood 356 for the AFL and 170 for the CIO. Vice President George Benjamin and Representative W. E. Lewis, of the International assisted the AFL workers in the campaign. George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the American Federation of Labor, appeared for the Tobacco Workers before the NLRB and in the court proceedings.

TOBACCO WORKERS WIN MANY GOOD POINTS FOR NEW YEAR

Wheeling, W. Va. — (SLPA) — Local Unions No. 2 and 198, of the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, have won an outstanding victory in the contest with Block Brothers Tobacco Company of this place. The workers remained away from their jobs 28 days, it is noted in the report of International President John O'Hare. The new agreement just signed a blanket increase in wages of 8 1-2 cents an hour was obtained, and an upward adjustment in wage rates in addition thereto for a majority of job classifications. Minimum rate of pay for women was increased 7 cents an hour and the minimum rate for men increased ten cents an hour. Substantial improvements were made in working conditions through the negotiations of the new agreement.

Red Cross Upholds Pact With 7-Count Indictment

New York City — Praising labor's generous support to his organization, Chairman Basil O'Connor of the American Red Cross denounced "erroneous and misleading statements" about the fund-raising agreement between the Red Cross and war relief committees of the AFL and CIO. "There was never any secrecy about this agreement," O'Connor asserted. "The agreements involve no 'kick-back' or 'pay' in any sense to the labor war relief committees." Mr. O'Connor was re-elected as the head of the Red Cross and the

organization voted to uphold its arrangement with the labor groups in the 1946 campaign. After America entered the war, O'Connor said, the AFL Labor League for Human Rights and the CIO War Relief Committee agreed to merge their fund-raising activities with those of the National War Fund and the American Red Cross. An agreement was reached in 1942 providing that the actual expenses of the employees of the labor war relief committees engaged full time in the fund-raising campaigns (Please Turn to Page 4)

THE CHRISTMAS FAMILY REUNION



REUNIONS OF MANY FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR VICTORIOUS FIGHTERS ON THE BATTLEFRONTS AND UNION WORKERS ON THE HOME FRONT. UNION LABELS, SHOP CARDS, AND SERVICE BUTTONS ARE ATOMIC WEAPONS IN PEACETIME TO PRESERVE THE AMERICAN HOME
I. M. ORNBURN, Secretary-Treasurer, UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Electrical Workers Win Election In DuPont's Richmond Plant

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, through Henry E. Adair, international representative, announce that the Union recently won an election in the DuPont plant in Richmond, Va., by a large majority. The election was conducted under the supervision of Ernest Modern, representing the National Labor Relations Board. The Richmond case had been pending for several months.

Representative Adair also reports that the IBEW recently won two elections in North Carolina, one at Raleigh and the other at Fayetteville. The two North Carolina elections were conducted with the electrical workers in two plants owned by the Electric Motor and Repair Company, which firm also owns another plant in Columbia, S. C., Mr. Adair says. The North Carolina elections were conducted by Eugene Curry, NLRB representative, supervising.

Important Decision Handed Down By Board On Textiles

Gastonia, N. C. (SLPA) — Because of numerous similar situations in the textile industry, the NLRB's decision handed down here last week to the effect that an election is in order in any one plant of a chain of mills is highly

important. The United Textile Workers of America, AFL, had petitioned the NLRB for an election in the plant of the Seminole mill, a unit of Textiles, Inc., owners and operators of a chain of mills. The company resisted the petition for an election on the ground that one election should be held for the workers in all of the mills of the chain owned by Textiles, Inc.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR RETAIL PROFITS

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Over 1,324 per cent! That's the staggering increase in profits rolled up by department and specialty stores during 1944, compared with their average earning from 1936 to 1939, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles revealed. Bowles made public the figure during a Senate Small Business committee hearing on price control. Aghast, Senator Allen J. Ellender, Democrat of Louisiana, exclaimed: "If that's true, then OPA has failed in its job." Bowles' answer was that "we regulate prices, not profits."

AFL WAGE HIKE DEMAND KILLED BY EMPLOYER VOTE

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The American Federation of Labor's attempts to obtain from the Labor-Management conference a declaration in favor of higher wages which would serve as a guide to the determination of disputes in reconversion industries was defeated by the opposition of management.

The first objective of the AFL delegates was to get agreement on better collective bargaining methods which would make it possible for employers and unions in each plant or industry to settle their wage problems according to the merits of each case. When the committee considering this subject failed to bring in a unanimous report, AFL President William Green submitted the following resolution to the final plenary session of the conference:

"Resolved, that if our national economy is to be preserved, our war debts liquidated and the purchasing power of the American public maintained at high levels in order to avoid disastrous unemployment and deflation, it is of first and utmost importance that general wage increases be granted immediately and adequately."

Mr. Green told the conference that the AFL is mobilizing all its strength in support of the wage demands of its affiliated unions. He declared that the AFL will wage "an unrelenting and uncompromising fight for higher wages which are justified by economic conditions."

Mr. Green blasted the CIO resolution on wages as "innocuous" and assailed CIO President Murray for refusing to serve on a subcommittee created by the executive committee to consider wage recommendations. "He was on strike," Mr. Green charged, "and he maintained his strike during the entire conference."

Congress Halts Action Until After Holidays

Washington, D. C. — The sudden blitz drive for adoption of anti-labor legislation by Congress has been smashed.

Organized labor gained at least a temporary reprieve when the House and Senate Labor committees voted to postpone action on the Norton-Ellender Bill until after the holidays.

This vote constituted a repudiation of administration leaders who had demanded enactment of the measure before Christmas.

United opposition by all of organized labor and most of management is believed, in Congressional circles, to have dimmed any chance of adoption of the Norton-Ellender Bill even after the committees resume consideration of the proposal after New Year's.

Both committees decided to broaden their inquiries to cover the entire field of labor-management relations next January. The members made it clear that they did not intend to act in haste and might take two months before deciding on legislation to recommend, if any. This was considered a highly favorable omen by organized labor leaders.

The Norton-Ellender Bill was introduced to carry out the recommendations of President Truman for legislation outlawing strikes for 30 days when the Secretary of Labor certifies a dispute to the President and he names a fact-finding board to consider the case and make recommendations. In reality, however, the bill goes

far beyond the President's recommendations and is regarded as highly dangerous by the trade union movement. Even management representatives joined in opposing many sections of the measure.

Senate and House hearings probably will not be resumed until January 15. In the meantime, all anti-labor legislation will be bottled up. This applies also to the Hobbs Bill, which was passed by the House.

AFL President William Green led the attack on the Norton-Ellender Bill at the hearings before the House Labor Committee, while the Senate group heard only government witnesses testifying in its favor.

Members of both committees indicated they were displeased with the punitive and restrictive features of the bill and expressed doubt that it would effectively prevent strikes if adopted.

Mr. Green emphasized that while the bill does not contain specific penalties, it would subject unions all over again to court injunctions and conspiracy charges which might lead to jail sentences for contempt of court.

The reprieve granted by Congress affords labor a glorious opportunity to marshal rank-and-file opposition to anti-labor legislation. Mr. Green urged all AFL members and organizations to write their Representatives and Senators during the recess urging defeat of such legislation.

AFL Wants To Help China Secure Democracy And Free Trade Unions

Washington, D. C. — The Committee on International Labor Relations of the American Federation of Labor pledged support to the Chinese people in their efforts to build a constitutional democracy and to develop a real labor movement. The committee made public the following statement outlining the AFL's views:

"We are much concerned for the future of China and its national struggle to set up the institutions of free democracy within an area containing one quarter of the world's population. We have a long tradition of friendship with China, marked by aid in the Boxer rebellion and the Nine Power Treaty pledging China aid against aggression. Despite the effects of our State Department for action in accord with that treaty, when Japan invaded China she fought the invading armies single-handed for over 9 years. Since we entered this World War, China, with the scanty supplies and aid we could get to her, has mobilized her resources to defend her country, culminating in a decisive battle against Japan.

"Our government is definitely committed to policies in support of China and to the Cairo agreement assuring that Japan shall be expelled from all territories which she has taken by violence. We are now carrying out our agreement by transporting Chinese troops to Manchuria, which is to be part of China. Forty percent of Japanese troops are still inside China territory. We have not yet fulfilled our responsibility to China.

"China, with a recorded history going back more than 3,000 years, is building a democracy, unifying her people and reaching out for the scientific progress of the Western World. Even in the midst of revolution preceded by war against Japanese invaders, China initiated large programs of national education. Because of seizure of its coastal cities, China has developed metallurgical, chemical and textile industries in the interior of the country where only handicraft industries existed before.

"A real labor movement is making progress in China together with the development of co-operatives. These are pivotal institutions in the development of democracy. In the name of the name of the American Federation of Labor we pledge them our support in their efforts to build a constitutional democracy and unify the Chinese people for peace at home and internationally."

"3—Vital guarantees of the Norton-Ellender Bill, AFL President William Green placed the House Labor Committee a seven-count indictment of the compulsory, cooling off, fact-finding measure. The AFL chief charged: "1—It invades the right to strike, which right labor must possess in order to procure economic justice. "2—The proposal will serve as a signal to the states to pass similar laws applicable to intrastate disputes of every nature. "3—Vital guarantees of the Nor-

ris-LaGuardia Act are automatically nullified or rendered worthless.

"4—The constitutional rights of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press are destroyed.

"5—Government by injunction is reestablished, subjecting violators to criminal contempt charges, and to imprisonment.

"6—The vicious 'doctrine of conspiracy' in labor disputes is re-established.

"7—Civil damage suits are authorized.

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Green Flays Norton Bill With Labor Relief Groups

Washington, D. C. — In a vigorous denunciation of the Norton-Ellender Bill, AFL President William Green placed the House Labor Committee a seven-count indictment of the compulsory, cooling off, fact-finding measure. The AFL chief charged: "1—It invades the right to strike, which right labor must possess in order to procure economic justice. "2—The proposal will serve as a signal to the states to pass similar laws applicable to intrastate disputes of every nature. "3—Vital guarantees of the Nor-