

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 opinion.

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.



Vol. XV; No. 34

Published Weekly

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1946

Price 5c Per Copy

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

Truman Makes Final Plea For Jobs-For-All Bill

LABOR—U. S. A.

Washington, D. C.—The twenty-fifth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over many networks, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

CONGRESS TAKES A HOLIDAY

By Lewis G. Hines, AFL Legislative Representative
You may not believe it, but members of Congress work just as hard as the rest of us. They do enjoy this great advantage, however. They can take a holiday whenever they decide they need one. Apparently, they need one now, because they have voted to recess until January 15. We wish them a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and we hope they will get a good rest. Because they have their work cut out for them when they return.

The amount of unfinished business left over by Congress is staggering. President Truman has submitted to Congress in the last few months a comprehensive program dealing with the human needs of all the American people in peacetime. It is no exaggeration to say that Congress has failed utterly to act constructively on this program. Not a single one of the "must" measures urgently recommended by the President has been approved.

Let's call the roll. Item No. 1 was the Full Employment Bill. The House and the Senate have each adopted a different bill on this subject, but both are disappointing. Representative Matthew M. Neely of West Virginia aptly described the House bill when he said:

"This bill is no more like a Full Employment Bill than the jackass in the lion's skin was like the king of beasts which the skin had originally adorned."

Then take Item No. 2 — The Unemployment Compensation Bill. The Senate passed a watered-down version of what the President recommended and the nation hadly needs, but the House Ways and Means Committee has buried the entire subject in a pigeon hole.

Item No. 3 is being subjected to slow death by delay. It is the new Minimum Wage Bill. The Senate Committee postponed further hearings until late in January and the House hasn't shown even that much interest.

Item No. 4 affects your health and mine. It is the Health Insurance Bill. Except for a few progressive leaders, Congress has thus far turned a deaf ear to this badly needed social reform which would make the best medical care available to all the American

people on a sound insurance basis.

I could go on with this list to a far greater extent if time permitted, but I think the point is clear. If Congress could do no better than the record of its last session, it certainly needs a vacation. We hope that when the members of Congress go home for the holidays they will hear from you on these subjects and come back determined to fulfill the requirements of the American people.

WHEN DOES THE WAR END?

By Joseph A. Padway, Chief Counsel for the AFL

The American people thought the war ended last August when Japan surrendered. But, from a legal aspect, the war emergency is still going on — and Congress has just extended it until June 30, 1946, by adopting legislation continuing the President's emergency authority under the Second War Powers Act until that date.

Now this is an exceedingly strange situation—and a dangerous one — but in some respects it just can't be helped.

For instance, if war-time controls over prices, rents and scarce materials were to be suddenly removed now, chaos would result. Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach told a Congressional Committee this week that if price ceilings were abolished the cost of living would burst right through the roof. With every city in the nation facing a dire shortage of homes, rents would go wild if controls were taken off at this time. As to materials, we have just experienced a startling example in the construction industry. The President was forced to replace government controls over building materials after they had been removed, because the scarce supply was not being used for the nation's most urgent need — new, low-cost housing. Therefore, no matter how unfortunate, disagreeable and annoying it may be, we must resign ourselves to the necessity of continuing on a wartime footing a little while longer.

But in some cases it is vitally important to abolish war powers without further delay. This is notably true of the Connally-Smith Act, which was supposed to outlaw strikes during the war but served, instead to encourage them. Fortunately, Congress has recognized its own error and has refused to permit the National Labor Relations Board to use its funds for conducting strike votes as the Connally-Smith Act provides. The American Federation of Labor is

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FIRST OF AFL RADIO FORUMS BEGINS JANUARY 6

How can Labor-Management relations be improved? That is the interesting and constructive topic of the AFL's first 1946 radio forum, which will be broadcast Sunday, January 6 on the NBC's "America United" program. Since some local stations on the network carry the program at later dates, by transcription, consult your local newspaper for the exact time of the broadcast.

The AFL's guest on the program will be Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy, who formerly served as president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Robert J. Watt will represent the AFL on the discussion panel. Other participants will include representatives of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Farmers Union.

This is the first of a series of 13 consecutive weekly broadcasts on "America United" under AFL sponsorship. Listen to them regularly!

President Vetoes "Rider" Returning USES To States

Washington, D. C. — Carrying out the urgent recommendations of the American Federation of Labor, President Truman vetoed a Congressional "rider" which would have forced return of control of the United States Employment Service to the states within 100 days.

In his veto message the President said:

"So far as the timing of the transfer is concerned, the period designated by this bill—the next 100 days — is the most disadvantageous that could have been chosen. It will result in a disrupted and inefficient employment service at the very time when efficient operation is most vitally needed by veterans, workers, and employers.

Local public employment offices are now and will be during the next several months, in the midst of the peak work load in their history. This is because the offices are now engaged in coun-

seling and pacing millions of applicants who require individualized service. These applicants include able-bodied veterans seeking assistance in their readjustment to civilian life, handicapped veterans requiring even more time and guidance in finding the jobs most suitable for them, and unemployed war workers who are confronted by difficult readjustments because of substantial reductions in job opportunities at their wartime skills and wage rates.

"At such a time, any change in management and direction is necessarily disruptive to the service. A change which would replace our present single and unified management by fifty-one separate managements would be very harmful. Even with every effort by the states to promote a smooth transition, the transfer of some 23,000 employes to new conditions of em-

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Truman Addresses Nation

ASKS PEOPLE TO SPUR CONGRESS INTO ACTION

President Truman this week in a fireside chat to the American people asked them to request of Congress immediate action on his proposed legislation designed to end America's industrial warfare and consequently to set the machinery in motion to begin grinding out a program for providing jobs for every man and woman in this country who wants to work.

Mr. Truman has thrown a reconversion program into the hoppers of Congress and charges the two law-making bodies with indecision in meeting the country's great and immediate needs. He expressed concern over present and threatened industrial disputes, lack of co-operation between Congressional members, industry, labor and farm groups, saying war-end promises had not all been kept.

"We cannot shirk leadership in the postwar world. The problems of our country will not be solved by timid men, mistrustful of each other. We cannot face 1946 in a spirit of drift or irresolution," the President said.

Asks Congressional Conferees To Adopt Draft Passed By Senate

Washington, D. C.—President Truman continued his fight this week for full employment legislation by asking the congressional conferees to adopt the draft passed by the Senate with its provision for Federal investments and expenditures to take up any slack in private employment.

Basically the President demanded of Congress "a declaration of the ultimate duty of government to use its own resources if all other methods should fail to prevent unemployment." The proposition was defeated overwhelmingly in the House and received Senate approval only after several inhibiting amendments were added.

In identical letters to Senator Wagner and Representative Mansasco of Alabama, as managers of the legislation, President Truman asked final passage of the Senate version, explaining that while it modified the language of the original bill, it did not remove its essential provisions.

Recalling how the House had sent to conference "a wholly new measure lacking the essential features of the full employment bill as passed by the Senate," Mr. Truman said he believed many Representatives had supported it "in the belief that the conferees would have an opportunity to restore the essentials of the Senate bill."

"In my opinion no bill which provides substantially less than the Senate version is efficiently approved," the President wrote. "I urge the conferees to support the essential characteristics of the Full Employment Bill adopted by the Senate by a vote of 71 to 10."

"The essential characteristics of effective legislation to establish a national policy in respects to employment opportunity as I see them, were described in my message to the Congress on September 6 as follows:

"A national reassertion of the right to work for every American citizen able and willing to work—a declaration of the ultimate duty of government to use its own resources if all other methods should fail to prevent full employment. "I ask that full employment legislation to provide these vital assurances be speedily enacted."

"I hope that the Congress will adopt a bill substantially in the form passed by the Senate."

Prior to final Senate passage of the measure a provision was inserted under which any program of Federal investment and expenditure for the fiscal year 1948 or later while the country was at peace "shall be accompanied by a program of taxation designed and calculated to prevent any such increase in the national debt" other

than a debt incurred for self-liquidating projects and other reimbursable expenditures over a "reasonable" period.

The Senate version of the bill, completely stricken by the House but still before the conferees, declared it to be the responsibility of the federal government "to assure continuing full employment that is, the existence at all times of sufficient employment opportunities for all Americans able to work and desiring to work."

However, this asserted federal responsibility was modified by other language which stipulated that the responsibility should be consistent with the needs and obligations of the government and other essential considerations of national policy.

The bill also emphasizes the responsibility of the federal government to foster free competitive private enterprise and the investment of private capital, and other steps to attain the "full employment" goal.

The House committee on expenditures in the Executive Department challenged the whole concept of the federal government's responsibility to provide jobs for every one. It said that "full employment never has been and never will be maintained under our system of free competitive enterprise except in wartime under huge deficits."

TRUMAN SIGNS BIG UNRRA FUND MEASURE

Washington, D. C. — President Truman signed the second United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration bill, authorizing appropriation of an additional \$1,350,000,000.

The measure stipulates UNRRA spending must end in Europe by December 31, 1946, and in the Orient by March 31, 1947.

The UNRRA measure contains a House amendment under which the President is requested to seek free access of American news correspondents into countries receiving aid.

The AFL vigorously supported increased appropriations for UNRRA as a humanitarian measure.

Have you paid your subscription to The Labor Journal for the new year? If not, send it in today.

1946 Problems To Be Taken Up By A. F. Of L. Executive Council

Miami, Fla.—Legislative problems vital to labor's interests will form the principal topics of discussion at the annual winter meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, which opens here January 21.

Another question which may come up before the meeting and which has aroused wide public interest is the possible reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers Union with the American Federation of Labor. No official announcement as to whether this subject will be considered has been forthcoming.

First among the legislative issues confronting the AFL leaders is the Norton-Ellender Bill, based upon a proposal by President Truman for the authorization of fact-finding disputes to prevent strikes and make recommendations for settlement after collective bargaining has broken down.

The AFL already has come out against this bill on the ground that it infringes the right to strike and ties through court injunctions and damage suits.

On the positive side, the AFL Executive Council is expected to press Congress for adoption of full would lay unions open to penal employment legislation, an unemployment compensation bill, minimum wage legislation and health insurance.

Support for the efforts of affiliated unions to obtain wage increases unquestionably will be voted and a new organizing campaign undertaken.

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR BURNS TEMPLE MORTGAGE

Minneapolis—The mortgage on the Floyd B. Olson Memorial Labor Temple was burned at an enthusiastic celebration in the auditorium when the indebtedness on the building, which was started in 1940, was finally paid off. The event was celebrated by a carnival jubilee grand ball.



WILLIAM GREEN

President of the American Federation of Labor, who will preside over one of the most important sessions of the AFL executive council to be held in years. The council will receive and pass upon many matters affecting the workers of America, and also the matter of accepting the United Mine Workers of America back into the AFL may come up for action. The meeting is scheduled to open in Miami on January 21.

Green Appeal To Affiliated Bodies To Get Vote On Jobless Pay Bill

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies to join in a drive for action by Congress on unemployment compensation legislation which would provide a nationwide maximum of \$25 a week for six months of the year to those who lose their jobs during reconversion.

The bill, urged by President Truman, is now buried in a pigeon-hole of the House Ways and Means Committee, but Rep. Bradley of Pennsylvania has initiated a petition to discharge the committee from further consideration of the measure and force it to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Green informed the affiliated organizations that the rules of the House require 218 signatures on such a petition before the committee can be discharged. He therefore urged the State and

city bodies to prevail upon their Representatives during the congressional recess to sign the petition and put it over.

"Insist that they do so, as a matter of simple justice," Mr. Green wrote.

Attempts to get quick action on pending minimum wage legislation designed to lift the floor under wages in interstate commerce to 65 cents an hour hit a snag when the Senate Labor committee decided to postpone further hearings on the measure to January 21.

Senator Ellender of Louisiana, who opposes the bill blocked earlier action in a secret committee session.

The bill would lift the minimum wage to 70 cents after one year and to 75 cents after two years. Thus, it would be of tremendous benefit to millions of workers in the low-income brackets and help to swell purchasing power.

Plans Being Pushed To Reorganize Vital Labor Department Services

Washington, D. C.—The administration has plans ready for overhauling its employment, wage stabilization and labor conciliation services.

All are under jurisdiction of Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwollenbach, whose aides have quietly proceeded with the reorganization.

1. The United States Employment Service is ready to go ahead in earnest with placing workers in peace-time jobs and orderly direction of the nation-wide shift in employment. Doubt over the employment office's future was largely dissipated by President Truman's veto of a bill, which would have returned control to the States next April.

2. The War Labor Board has almost cleared its docket as its life expired December 31. It has set up the National Wage Stabilization Board to carry out provisions

of the Stabilization Act until next June 30.

3. The re-employment and retraining administration has begun operating under Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine. It has tackled the job of co-ordinating Federal employment and training services for veterans and war workers and will work partially through local centers.

4. Reorganization of the conciliation service is nearing completion or paper. Some new men have been made, but this remains one of the biggest jobs to be completed by Schwollenbach in 1946. The government counts on this service to avert or settle labor-management disputes before they result in work stoppages.

5. Truman has signed the Federal Reorganization Bill passed by Congress and is expected to carry out further consolidation of labor agencies in the labor department.