



The Charlotte Labor Journal

(AND DIXIE FARM NEWS)

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AFL Backs Drive To Bring GIs Home From Overseas

Truman Praises AFL Record In Keeping Down Strikes

Green Warns War Dep't To Speed Up Discharges Or Face Censure

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor joined the drive of overseas veterans to get home more quickly than the confused policies of the War department permit.

AFL President William Green, responding to appeals from large groups of GIs stationed in the Pacific and in Europe, warned the War department that unless it speeds up its demobilization program Congress will order it to do so.

Confirming Mr. Green's prediction, the Senate Military Affairs committee ordered an immediate investigation of the situation and summoned Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Army chief of staff, as its first witness.

Mr. Green called upon the War department to reduce the size of American occupation forces abroad to the lowest possible figure consistent with safety and to speed the return of surplus troops eligible for discharge.

Mr. Green revealed receipt of a radiogram from 7,500 AFL members stationed in Manila asking the American Federation of Labor to assist in the fight to speed demobilization. Another message was received from a GI group in Manila charging that the "unwarranted and drastic revisions of the demobilization program announced by the War Department January 5" constitute a "complete breaking of faith with army personnel."

"Lack of shipping is no longer a feasible excuse for slow demobilization," said the message. "It is obvious that the ancient argument of military necessity is being foisted upon the public and Congress."

Responding to these appeals, Mr. Green declared:

"Now that the war is over, there can be no justification for maintaining our armed forces at an excessively large figure. The American Federation of Labor is aware of the fact that the United States will have to keep occupation forces in Germany and Japan for an indefinite period. These are conquered and presumably hostile. But the same considerations certainly do not apply to the Philippines and France, where many thousands of American troops are still stationed. Let's bring them home at once.

"The War Department has not lived up to its promises to the servicemen. They have lost confidence in the sincerity of its expressed policy of rapid demobilization. Their morale is shaken.

"The American people here at home are in no mood to tolerate such a state of affairs. Unless the War Department promptly improves and speeds up its demobilization program, it may find itself in the position of receiving orders from Congress to do so."

Job Picture Less Serious Than Expected On V-J Day

Washington, D. C.—A. F. Hinrichs, acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said that unemployment is far less serious than was expected before V-J day, but that production in many lines is picking up "only slowly."

Expansion in 1946, he declared, would be stimulated by construction mainly of residential building and by increases in business investment and in the flow of consumer durable goods.

Delays in reconversion he ascribed chiefly to business caution, saying that neither strikes nor lack of interest in current sales on the part of businessmen subject to excess profit taxes in 1945 operated as more than minor factors.

Other points in the survey were: 1—New jobs will develop somewhat more slowly than men are demobilized.

2—It is almost certain that un-

AFL RADIO FORUM HITS FACT-FINDING PROPOSAL

Washington, D. C.—The AFL inaugurated its 1946 radio forum series over NBC's "America United" program with a highly interesting and informative discussion on "How Can Labor-Management Relations Be Improved?"

Representatives of the AFL, U. S. Chamber of Commerce and National Farmers Union agreed that the President's fact-finding proposal won't do the trick, nor will any other new legislation by Congress to regulate labor-management relations. They came to the conclusion that the only real solution is sincere collective bargaining and an effort by labor and management leaders to come together on basic policies.

Robert J. Watt spoke for the AFL, Thomas W. Howard for the Chamber of Commerce, and Russell Smith for the National Farmers union.

GREEN URGES DONATIONS TO CLOTHING COLLECTION

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all AFL members in a Christmas message to support the Victory Clothing Drive which is trying to collect 100 million new and old garments for distribution among the millions of destitute war victims of Europe and Asia. He also urged that each donor write a letter with his gift.

"Your help," Mr. Green said, "will again demonstrate very clearly the deep-rooted desire of AFL men and women to strengthen the fraternal bonds between themselves and the working men and women all over the world."

The AFL Presents . . . "AMERICA UNITED"

At 1:15 P.M., EWT. Over NBC

Date	Topic	Panel Members
Jan. 20	Problems of Gov't Workers	James B. Burns, AFL Rep. Biemiller, Wis. Russell Smith, National Farmers Union
Jan. 27	America's Housing Emergency	Boris Shishkin, AFL Wilson Wyatt, Housing Expediter F. S. Fitzpatrick, U. S. Chamber of Commerce
Feb. 3	Nedd for Health Insurance	Nelson Cruikshank, AFL Senator Pepper, of Florida Russell Smith, National Farmers Union
Feb. 10	Long-Range Home Plans	Boris Shishkin, AFL Senator Wagner, of New York Russell Smith, National Farmers Union

New Wage Board Appointed As NWLB Ceases To Exist

Washington, D. C.—President Truman issued an executive order terminating the National War Labor Board and creating a National Wage Stabilization board to pick up the tangled threads left by the former body.

The President named the following members to take over:

Public—W. Willard Wirtz, former general counsel of the WLB, and Sylvester Garrett, former chairman of the Philadelphia Regional board.

Labor—Robert J. Watt of the American Federation of Labor and Carl J. Shipley of the CIO.

Industry—Earl Cannon, vice president of the American Trucking association, and R. Randall Irwin, assistant to the president of the Lockheed Aviation corporation.

Mr. Wirtz, who was named chairman of the board, said it would soon make public detailed standards applying to conditions under which wages may be increased or decreased in accordance with government stabilization policy.

The board will determine whether wage increases requested may be

used as a basis for seeking price relief. One branch of the board will continue to administer controls over wage adjustments in the building industry which also continue to require advance approval.

The new agency has no authority to settle any labor-management disputes.

President Truman accepted the resignation of 21 men who have served with the WLB, and in doing so, wrote Chairman Garrison a letter of appreciation for their services and for the whole personnel of the WLB. The Chief Executive extended his "thanks for the outstanding wartime job they have done in the last four years, under the most difficult circumstances, in helping to maintain industrial peace, maximum production and wage stabilization."

He said that the board members and the WLB personnel had "earned and thoroughly deserve the gratitude of their fellow citizens."

Chairman Garrison also praised the record of the WLB in a report to the President.

"The board has had its short-

comings," he readily admitted. "It has made mistakes. Its tripartite procedures have been at times disappointingly slow. He added:

"But all things considered, I submit to you, Mr. President, that the board has served the country well and that from its experiments much has been gained and much can be learned."

At a news conference, Mr. Garrison revealed that the board had a record of dealing with nearly 20,000 disputes.

Mr. Garrison said that before V-J day the body had disposed of 17,807 disputes involving about 12,300,000 workers.

On V-J day there were pending 3,042 disputes, most of which were disposed of before the WLB closed up shop.

"With very few exceptions, employers and unions voluntarily complied with the board decisions and vigorously supported the wartime no-strike, no lockout agreement on whose foundations the board was set up," Mr. Garrison said.

Charlotte Applies For Housing Assistance

It appears likely that relief, to some degree, will soon be had in Charlotte's acute housing shortage, for the City Council this week gave permission for submission of an application for government assistance, this having been prepared some time ago by Harold J. Dilleay, executive director of the Charlotte Housing Authority.

Through this application the city is seeking to take advantage of provisions of the Mead Bill, which provides relief or temporary dwelling facilities in areas of acute housing shortage. The fund, if granted, will be used to pay for dismantling, re-erection, etc., of surplus housing and for re-con-

verting barracks buildings into family dwelling units.

City officials do not think that sufficient funds can be obtained from the Federal Government to do the whole job at Morris Field. For this reason, a conference was held Wednesday at City Hall by City Manager Flack, Councilman Henry Newton and Coleman W. Roberts, chairman of the Citizens Emergency Housing Committee.

Mr. Roberts was informed of the City's plans and was asked if his committee would undertake to raise the money to complete the reconversion of Morris Field barracks after whatever funds the

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Ford Hits Laws To Ban Strikes

Detroit—Henry Ford, 24, youthful president of the Ford Motor Company, called for industrial statesmanship—by both management and labor to eliminate industrial strife without "impairing or diminishing the rights which both management and labor must continue to enjoy."

In liberal vein, Ford said solution of the problem of human relations in industry would lower costs to consumers and help make the nation prosperous. He insisted the solution can be found through

closer understanding between management and labor.

"We cannot expect legislation to solve our problems," he said. "Laws which seek to force large groups of Americans to do what they believe is unfair and against their best interests, are not likely to succeed. In fact, such legislation can lead to exaggeration of the very problem it is designed to solve. And when free men give up the task of trying to get along with each other, and pass the buck to government, they surrender a substantial measure of their freedom."

DU BRUYNE NAMED USES DIRECTOR

Raleigh—Robert M. du Bruyne, chief of placement and actually State director of the United States Employment Service in North Carolina during the period while it was under the War Manpower Commission, headed by Dr. J. S. Dorton, has been named acting State director of the USES by Regional Director Henry E. Treide and has assumed the duties since the resignation of Dr. Dorton became effective November 30.

Mr. du Bruyne's appointment is subject to the expected return of Major R. Mayne Albright, on military leave and just back in Raleigh on terminal leave from 28 months with AMG in Italy, to his post as State director, probably early in 1946.

With a background of eight years in employment service work, Mr. du Bruyne will continue to carry on independently work he has done many months under direction of Dr. Dorton. He has functioned as chief of placement, assistant director and director since coming to the State office August 16, 1943. Previously he had been area supervisor in the North Piedmont area, manager of the High Point, Fayetteville and Lenoir local employment offices. He joined the State UCC December 16, 1937, as claims interviewer at Rockingham and served almost a year as field investigator in Asheville.

Mr. du Bruyne resided at Morganton for a decade, serving

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Green Reports Only Tiny Fraction Of AFL Members Have Quit Work

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green reported to President Truman at a White House conference on January 11 that only a fraction of one per cent of the 7,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor were out on strike.

President Truman, Mr. Green told newsmen later, said he was conscious of the fact that not many AFL unions were engaged in strikes and thanked Mr. Green for backing up the nation's reconversion program.

The newspapers, apparently intent on playing up strike news in scare headlines, ignored for the most part Mr. Green's highly constructive report, copies of which were made available to the daily press.

In the report, Mr. Green emphasized that AFL unions were obtaining wage increases for their members through collective bargaining with employers and challenged claims that collective bargaining has broken down in America.

The text of his report to the President follows:

GREEN URGES MEMBERS MAINTAIN BOND STANDS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green issued an appeal to all AFL workers to continue purchasing Victory Bonds under the pay roll savings plan.

Mr. Green said in a letter to all affiliated unions that he had discussed the matter with Secretary of the Treasury Vinson who expressed the hope that AFL members will not abandon pay roll savings plans in peacetime.

Secretary Vinson praised the leading part which AFL officers and members played in the successful outcome of the Treasury's war finance program.

PROMOTION OF SAFETY URGED BY DEARBORN

Chicago—"Promotion of safety should be as definite an objective of labor as wages and working conditions," said Ned H. Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council, recently.

As guest speaker on "Labor, U. S. A.," the American Federation of Labor's ABC broadcast, Mr. Dearborn said more Americans have been killed by accidents since Pearl Harbor than were killed by the armed forces of Germany and Japan—355,000 as compared to 261,608.

"This squandering of lives at home is as unnecessary as it is tragic," declared Mr. Dearborn. "Labor, management and professional safety people must co-ordinate their efforts to apply our knowledge of accident prevention. Safe working environments must be supplemented by an en-

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"As of this date, only a fraction of one per cent of the membership of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions is on strike. Out of a total of close to 7,000,000 members, only about 40,000 have quit work as the result of disputes. The figure is approximate, but it is the most accurate we can obtain from our own sources and from the Department of Labor.

"That is not an excessive strike total for the largest labor organization in the nation. It is not more than can be expected even in normal times in a free country where the right to strike is a fundamental part of the law of the land.

"Nor are the comparatively few current strikes by American Federation of Labor unions dangerous to the nation's reconversion program. For the most part, they are small and scattered shutdowns.

"Mr. President, the members of the American Federation of Labor are busy—working.

"In every part of the nation they are bargaining collectively with their employers, seeking their goals in an intelligent and reasonable way. They want wage rate increases and need such increases because their takehome pay has been sharply cut since the war ended and living costs are still climbing.

"Through collective bargaining new agreements and new contracts are being negotiated and signed every day by American Federation of Labor unions and employers.

"Those who assert that collective bargaining has broken down don't know what is going on in America. On the contrary, collective bargaining is functioning successfully wherever it is put into practice sincerely.

"Unfortunately, strikes make the headlines while agreements are not considered news. For this reason, a large part of the public may gain the impression that labor-

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McCarren Seeks Action On 30-Hour Week Proposal

Washington, D. C.—Senator McCarren of Nevada said he intends to press for a complete congressional study of proposed 30-hour work-week legislation for government employees after Congress returns to Washington.

McCarren's proposed bill, introduced in early September, would retain the five-day work week now in force in the government service, but it would cut the working day from 8 to 6 hours.

Although aimed specifically at Civil Service personnel, its goal is to provide a precedent for industry in general to cut working hours so as to open up more jobs when and if unemployment looms as a national problem. Labor or-

ganizations have widely indorsed it.

"Right now, of course, there is no great demand for a general 30-hour work week in view of the fact that the country still lacks man power to fill all available jobs. But the time is coming when this will be the only course we can take, and before that time comes, I want Congress to have obtained all possible information on the subject," the senator said.

McCarren said he had been promised hearings by Senator Downey of California, chairman of the Civil Service committee to which his bill was referred, and added he feels sessions should be held "from time to time" during the year.