

# JOHN LEWIS IS INVITED BACK INTO A. F. O. F. L.

## 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. 37

Published Weekly

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1946

Price 5c Per Copy

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

# AFL Council Decries Drive For Anti-Strike Measures AFL Starts Twin Drive For Action To Meet Nation's Acute Housing Need Voluntary Arbitration Panel To Meet At Chapel Hill

## 600,000 Miners Return To AFL At Miami Meeting

Special To The Labor Journal:

MIAMI, Fla. Jan. 25.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor, in winter session here, today welcomed back into the AFL John L. Lewis' powerful United Mine Workers Union of America, which has a membership of 600,000. Although not unexpected, the action of the Council is significant and comes as welcome news to all American Federation of Labor affiliates.

Lewis was immediately given a seat on the Executive Council and adds to this body one of America's greatest labor leaders. John L. Hutchinson, president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, although at odds with Lewis for many years, was one of the leaders on the executive council for return of the miners' union to the AFL ranks.

The miners immediately paid

JOHN L. LEWIS



their per capita tax for January and reassumed their place on the Council. This action is the forerunner of what is hoped to be the early solidifying of the entire Labor movement.

## Warns Hasty Action May Make Matters Worse

Miami.—Moving coldly to head off enactment of antistrike legislation, the AFL executive council advised Congress to take a cooling-off period itself before rushing approval of ill-considered measures which may make matters worse.

At the same time, the executive council dispatched telegrams to the House and Senate Labor Committees urging rejection of the pending fact-finding bill backed by the administration.

Since this bill, introduced originally by Representative Norton and Senator Ellender, apparently enjoys the highest priority for congressional consideration, the council listed four cogent and specific reasons for its defeat.

But fundamentally, the AFL leaders expressed objection to all of 160 pending antilabor bills which seek to restrict the freedom of American workers and their trade unions.

They emphasized that the difficulties confronting Congress in making an intelligent decision on this flood of proposals has become aggravated by the clamor and pressure for hasty action to deal with the current strike situation, precipitated by CIO unions.

"Our nation is passing through a critical period of postwar readjustment," the executive council declared. "During the war our national economy was dictated and rigidly controlled by the government. Our fundamental objective now should be to return as quickly as possible to a free economy.

"The great danger is that Congress, in an attempt to mitigate temporary labor-management disputes, may impose permanent government controls which would stifle freedom of enterprise for labor and for management for all time."

AFL President William Green

told news men at a press conference that the AFL is calling upon all its affiliated state and local subsidiaries to register their opposition to pending antilabor bills with their representatives in Congress.

He indicated that the present legislative situation constitutes the greatest threat to labor's freedom in the nation's history.

Instead of punitive or compulsory legislation, Mr. Green called for a hands-off policy by government and full opportunity to labor and industry to settle their differences through free collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration.

The executive council also stressed the same note when it warned Congress to "beware of throwing the American way of life into reverse gear."

The council pointed out that government regulation of labor-management relations is bound to develop into compulsory arbitration; that the proposed fact-finding procedure will inevitably become wage-fixing by the government and that no government agency can exercise wage controls without having to perpetuate price controls.

Citing specific reasons for the defeat of the Norton-Ellender Bill, the council declared the compulsory cooling-off periods provided in the bill would serve instead to warm up strike sentiment among workers.

The council warned the bill would revive court injunctions against labor and subject workers to the hated doctrine of conspiracy, under which two or more workers, acting in concert, are forbidden by law to perform actions that are held legal for an individual worker.

Finally, the council pointed to the example of the General Motors

## Green Calls Central Bodies 800 Cities For Leading Part

Washington, D. C.—A double-barreled drive to arouse public opinion for action to deal with the immediate housing emergency and for enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill to meet the nation's long-range housing needs was announced by AFL President William Green.

Mr. Green called upon AFL Central Labor Unions in 800 cities throughout the country to take the lead in organizing community campaigns for prompt construction of new homes to meet the acute shortages confronting returning veterans and war workers.

"Mobilization for more and better housing is the most vital step in America's mobilization for peace and recovery," Mr. Green said.

His action followed a White House conference with Federal Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt, at which Mr. Green was accompanied by the AFL Housing Committee.

"The American Federation of Labor stands ready to cooperate fully with Mr. Wyatt in the emergency program to meet the housing crisis which affects almost every American community today," Mr. Green said after the meeting. "We will support every sound measure to make the government program effective.

Foremost in labor's objectives in its fight to prevent the present housing shortage from developing a chronic, malignant disease is quick Congressional enactment of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill, S. 1592. It is the duty of every unionist and every responsible citizen to raise his voice and call upon Congress for urgent action on this vital legislation.

"The American Federation of Labor calls upon its Central Unions in more than 800 communities throughout the United States to form local labor housing committees. It will be the responsibility of these committees to work close with mayors and other municipal authorities in making known the housing needs of the community and devising methods for meeting them promptly, soundly and effectively.

"Local AFL Housing Committees, guided by the National Housing Committee of the AFL will launch a nationwide mobilization of labor and citizen cooperation to meet the housing emergency."

## Presides Over Historic Meeting



WILLIAM GREEN

## Text of Council Statement

Miami.—Congress needs a cooling-off period right now much more urgently than labor.

At this moment our lawmakers are faced with consideration of some 160 bills aimed at impairing or restricting the freedom of the nation's workers and the unions which represent them.

The difficulties of making an intelligent decision on these complicated and catch-as-catch-can proposals are further aggravated by the clamor and pressure for hasty action to deal with the current strike situation.

Under these circumstances, the executive council is convinced that any law Congress could pass now would only make matters worse.

Our nation is passing through a critical period of postwar readjustment. During the war our national economy was dictated and rigidly controlled by the government. Our fundamental objective now should

"AMERICA UNITED"

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

Date	Topic	Panel Members
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

(Continued on Page 3)

## Will Discuss Techniques For Settling Labor Disputes

Members of North Carolina's new Voluntary Arbitration Panel will meet at Chapel Hill Saturday, January 26, to discuss development of uniform techniques for settlement of labor-management disputes under the Voluntary Arbitration Act. The meeting, called by State Labor Commissioner Forrest H. Shuford, who is administrator of the Act, will be held in the Carolina Inn.

The Voluntary Act was passed in the 1945 session of the General Assembly for the purpose of arbitrating labor disputes which have failed to be settled by mediation and conciliation. The ten members of the Panel were appointed by Commissioner Shuford during the past year.

Panel members scheduled to attend are as follows:

John W. Darden of Plymouth, field representative of the State

Paroles Commission; Capus Waynick of Raleigh, director of the Venereal Disease Education Institute; Dr. J. J. Spengler of Durham, of the Duke University economics faculty; Dr. Harry D. Wolf and Prof. R. J. M. Hobbs of Chapel Hill, both of the U. N. C. economics department; Dr. Albert S. Keister of Greensboro, of the economics department at the Woman's College of U. N. C.; Dr. Raymond Jenkins of Salisbury, Dean of Catawba College, Francis O. Clarkson, Charlotte attorney; Dr. George D. Heaton, of Charlotte, minister at the Myers Park Baptist Church; and W. R. F. Millar, Waynesville attorney.

Dean M. T. Van Hecke of the U. N. C. law department, and former Director of the Regional War Labor Board, will appear at the meeting in an advisory capacity.

## Housewives Urged To Give Support To Maintenance Of Price Control

Washington, D. C.—An effective appeal to American housewives to back up continued price control to protect themselves against inflated prices for food, clothing and household goods is published in the current issue of the Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters Journal.

The article suggests that Congress consult housewives before deciding to end price controls by June 30.

Although prices are unquestionably high now, they still have not reached the fantastic pinnacles that were attained after World War No. 1, when there was no such government regulation to protect consumers.

"The housewives of America,"

the article says "are sensible enough to know that abolishing price control before the production of goods and services approaches peacetime requirements can mean only inflation.

"She must also realize that if she sits idly by and permits the people who believe they will benefit from inflation to bulldoze the politicians — then inflation will come.

"She must watch the man and women who represent her in Congress and let them know that price control must be maintained despite the organized minorities who believe in the 'public be damned.' The responsibility lies with the people who know what is happening to prices — the housewives of America."

## Ohio Labor Fights Unfair Rulings In Jobless Compensation Law

Columbus, O.—A three-pronged drive to eliminate unfair disqualifications in the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law was launched by Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

He telegraphed a demand for an investigation to Chairman Arthur J. Altmeyer, of the Social Security Board, declaring that thousands of Ohio workers and their families are suffering needless hardships because of technicalities in the law.

Then Mr. Hannah called upon Director Robert Goodwin of the U. S. Employment Service to use his good offices for the elimination of the double-standard system which discriminates against applicants for unemployment compensation in Ohio.

Finally, he appealed to Governor Lausche of Ohio to correct the situation.

Mr. Hannah explained in a letter to the governor that wide injustices are resulting from the failure of the Ohio General Assembly

to write into the law a definition of "suitable work." As a result, he said, many skilled and highly trained workmen who have lost their jobs are refused compensation when they reject referrals for low-paid, unskilled jobs, such as dish-washing. He added:

"The refusal of benefits plus the ever-rising cost of living are working severe but unnecessary hardships on Ohio workers.

"With almost a half-billion in the U. C. fund, it seems that Ohio should adopt a more liberal and sensible policy in the payment of benefits to temporarily displaced workers. That is, after all, what the fund is for. It is not a shrine at which to worship.

"In view of the desperate plight of thousands of workers due to the lack of a 'suitable work' definition and other disqualifications we are appealing to you as governor to call a special session of the 96th General Assembly to remedy the U. C. law so that it will function as originally intended."