



# 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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## Truman Supports General Wage Hike In Challenging Message To Congress

Washington, D. C. — President Truman declared in his annual message to Congress that American business can afford and should pay "substantial" wage increases to labor.

To set industry a good example, the President urged Congress to increase the pay of government employees and to vote an immediate boost in minimum wage levels from 40 to 65 cents an hour.

The President emphasized that wage increases in private industry should be negotiated through collective bargaining. He also pressed for prompt action in full employment legislation, social security improvements, higher unemployment compensation and insurance against medical costs.

Full employment and increased production, Mr. Truman said, are the only safeguards against the disaster of inflation and consequent depression. He warned that another depression in this country would upset the entire world economy.

Deploring work stoppages, the President called upon management and labor to settle their disputes through collective bargaining. He also reiterated his request for fact-finding legislation.

"Private capital and private management," the President said in his message, "are entitled to adequate reward for efficiency, but business must recognize that its reward results from the employment of the resources of the nation."

"Business is a public trust and must adhere to national standards in the conduct of its affairs. These standards include as a minimum the establishment of fair wages

and fair employment practices. "Labor also has its own new peacetime responsibilities. Under our collective bargaining system, which must become progressively more secure, labor attains increasing political as well as economic power and this, as with all power, means increased responsibility."

In endorsing a boost in the minimum wage level prescribed under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the President said neither serious price adjustments nor geographic dislocations would be caused by such increases.

Continued price control and rent control were urged by the President to prevent inflation. He recommended liberalization of the whole structure of the social security laws and restated his pleas for the establishment of health insurance.

In giving his views on the need for a fair wage structure to bulwark expansion of American industry, the President said:

"Most industries and most companies have adequate leeway within which to grant substantial wage increases. If we manage our economy properly, the future will see us on a level of production half again as high as anything we have ever accomplished in peacetime. Business can in the future pay higher wages and sell for lower prices than ever before. This is not true for all companies, nor will it ever be there for all, but for business generally it is true. We are relying on all concerned to develop through collective bargaining wage structures that are fair to labor, allow for necessary business incentives and conform with policy to hold the line on prices.

## OPA To Spur Clothing Production But Bars General Price Boost

Washington, D. C.—OPA Administrator Chester Bowles promised vigorous government action to increase production and supply of reasonably-priced clothing now practically unobtainable in the stores.

The move was designed especially to provide more civilian clothing for returning veterans.

Bowles warned manufacturers who have engaged in a sit-down strike in the hope of forcing increases in price ceilings that the OPA will not permit price boosts as a stimulant to production.

Meanwhile, in a significant article carried in the current issue of a national weekly magazine, Bowles revealed that the "crisis in clothes" is not something that has arisen overnight. It has been long in the making.

"Mistakes" by the government itself are in large part responsible, he admitted. He blamed the situation on the failure of the War Production Board and OPA to take

drastic steps early in the war to head off the crisis.

Way back then, he said, the government should have prohibited or sharply reduced production of high-priced evening dresses, other luxury apparel and costly draperies. It should have set up tight controls to "prevent the shift to high-price, high-profit lines."

Also, it should have established better controls to keep out "shoddy" garments and to have required production of necessary quantities of good lower-priced clothing. Above all, it should have started apparel rationing in the spring of 1943, he said.

"OPA certainly must carry its full share of the blame," he conceded.

"In 1942 and 1943 and through much of 1944, OPA failed to take sufficient vigorous action."

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## Why Companies Provoke Strikes—Tax Refunds Will Pay Losses

Washington, D. C.—One of the frankest admissions so far made that employers are using tax "savings" to finance a war against labor has come from a big textile plant in Union Point, Ga.

It is owned by the Union Manufacturing Company and union workers have gone on strike because the management refuses to put into effect National War Labor Board orders.

In response, the company, in a circular distributed to employees, brazenly boasted that it will lose nothing from the walkout.

"Any losses we sustain in 1946 will be made up to us by the government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945," the circular declared.

What the company referred to was that, under the "carry-back" provisions of the tax laws, passed by Congress to facilitate reconversion, it will be entitled to rebates from Uncle Sam, which will be sufficient to take care of any losses it may sustain in the next two years.

Attend your Union meeting!

## Truman Endorses Union Label Idea

Washington, D. C. — President Truman approved of the principle of the Union Label in a letter to the AFL Union Label Trades Department. The letter was in response to an invitation to attend the Union Label and Industrial Exhibition in St. Louis, Oct. 29 to Nov. 3. The President said he could not make a definite appointment at this time.

The rest of his letter follows: "I trust that the 1946 Union Label and Industrial Exhibition will be an outstanding success in full keeping with its laudable aims. The purpose of such an exhibition, and of the other work of your department, is important. Through other types of labeling the consumer has a guide to the content and quality of the goods he purchases. Through the union label he has knowledge that the men and women who make the product work at fair wages and under decent conditions. By educating consumers in general to the full meaning of the union label, you will enable them to give added impetus to the establishment and maintenance of fair labor standards."

I. M. Orburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, said that plans and preparations are now under way for the greatest union labor exhibition ever held.

## J. M. Gillespie, Of Teamsters, Dies

Indianapolis. — John M. Gillespie, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and one of the best-loved men in the labor movement, died here at the age of sixty-six after a long illness.

Mr. Gillespie had served the Teamsters' organization for almost half a century and had earned a reputation for square dealing and intelligent leadership throughout the trade union movement.

Teamster President Daniel J. Tobin, shocked at the passing of his close friend and associate, declared that Mr. Gillespie's efforts had helped to build the Teamsters Union into one of the most powerful organizations in the nation.

"He was one of the best-liked men I ever knew," said Mr. Tobin. "We started out together as business agents for the same local union in Boston and when I became president of the international, I brought him along with me as my assistant."

"He was an able negotiator and a faithful union official. He was always so friendly and genial that even when the other fellow got the worst of the argument he didn't bear any unkindly feeling toward 'Gil.' I have never heard anyone say an unkind word about him."

This tribute from Mr. Tobin was echoed by many of the leading officers of the American Federation of Labor gathered in Miami for the AFL Executive Council meeting.

AFL President William Green, who had come into frequent contact with Mr. Gillespie at conventions and council meetings, declared that the labor movement as a whole, besides the Teamsters

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KEEP UP YOUR VICTORY SAVINGS

AND HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS

| VICTORY BOND TIMETABLE |          |            |            |
|------------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| WEEKLY SAVINGS         | IN 1 YR. | IN 5 YRS.  | IN 10 YRS. |
| \$3.75                 | \$195.00 | \$1,004.20 | \$2,163.45 |
| 6.25                   | 325.00   | 1,674.16   | 3,607.54   |
| 7.50                   | 390.00   | 2,009.02   | 4,329.02   |
| 9.38                   | 487.76   | 2,513.42   | 5,416.97   |
| 12.50                  | 650.00   | 3,348.95   | 7,217.20   |
| 15.00                  | 780.00   | 4,018.67   | 8,660.42   |
| 18.75                  | 975.00   | 5,024.24   | 10,828.74  |

## Davis Opposes Fact-Finding Boards, Upholds Collective Bargaining

Washington, D. C.—William H. Davis, former chairman of the War Labor Board, told the Senate Committee on Education and Labor that government intervention in labor disputes in peacetime defeated the basic purpose of collective bargaining and rendered the achievement of industrial peace far more difficult.

So long as there was held out to each side in a labor dispute the possibility that it might gain more from government intervention than it could by its own efforts, any legislation would aggravate rather than ameliorate the problem, he said.

"You can't pull John Jones out of bed and make him go to work if he doesn't want to," asserted Mr. Davis. "And, believe me, strikes don't continue indefinitely. The old lady at home will want to know before long where the next day's meals are coming from."

"Yes, you could require unions to post cash bonds not to violate

contracts. But a national union half a million members can exhaust that sum in strike benefits in two or three weeks."

In similar blunt language, Mr. Davis indicated that he thought President Truman was off on the wrong foot in advocating fact-finding boards.

"If I were in the driver's seat," he said, "I would say to you: don't legislate in the light—or perhaps I should say the heat—of these controversies."

"You are faced with an inevitable post-war situation. It is something like an irresistible force meeting an immovable object, so far as anything is concerned that the government can do."

He advocated larger salaries and a larger staff for the United States Conciliation Service.

This force, most of its members getting not more than \$4,200 a year, had done wonders in getting capital and labor to settle their disputes, he said.

## 50,000 Contracts Can't Be Wrong—Collective Bargaining Works!

Chicago—While collective bargaining has broken down in a few big industries, nonetheless 50,000 union agreements are functioning today and helping to keep the peace on the industrial front.

That significant point was made by Edgar L. Warren, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, in an address to the Chicago Association of Commerce.

"Every day approximately 100 of these contracts are being reopened and rewritten, and every day literally thousands of grievances are being settled under the terms of these existing agreements," Warren explained.

It was to be expected, he said, that after the strain of the war,

long hours of work and wage freezing, the coming of peace should lead to an outburst of disputes. Actually, however, in the vast majority of cases, labor-employer differences are being settled without stoppages, he stressed.

"The wonder is not there is so much industrial strife, but that there is no more!" Warren insisted. "The wonder is not that there are interruptions to production, but that the reconversion program is proceeding."

### PRINTERS MEET SUNDAY

Charlotte local No. 338, International Typographical Union will meet at 2:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon in Red Men's hall.

## Woll Demands Firm Stand On Russia, Warns Unions Against Politics

New York City. — AFL Vice President Matthew Woll called upon the government to stop "appeasing" Soviet Russia, advised labor not to depend on government or political parties to win its battles and proposed that further labor-management conferences be held to extend the scope of "industrial co-operation, mutual trust and good-will."

In his annual message to the membership of his own union, the International Photoengravers Union, Mr. Woll recommended that the United States set forth its international policies with complete frankness and candor. He described Stalin's foreign program as "diplomatic aggression" and declared that any efforts at appeasement would be as unsuccessful as the attempt to appease Adolf Hitler at Munich.

The same prescription should apply to our relations with Great Britain, the Netherlands and all other foreign governments, the AFL leader said.

"Even in politics no one has yet succeeded in finding an adequate substitute for honesty," he observed.

The end of the war has dispelled the hope of some labor leaders that they could look upon the federal government as "a sort of fairy god-mother" who would protect them from the harsh facts of life, Mr. Woll said.

"The political honeymoon for labor is now definitely over," he declared. "From here out victory will go to those unions which did not barter their trade union birth-right. And among these, as any intelligent trade unionist knows, administration revealed.

are the unions of the American Federation of Labor.

"Labor's strength lies in its own organizations, in its own membership, in its institutions, its tried and trusted leadership. The AFL has consistently adhered to this philosophy. It is the only safe and sound policy for American labor. CIO publications please copy."

He characterized the labor-management conference recently held in Washington under the auspices of President Truman as "a step forward" in that it had given both sides a better understanding of their mutual problems.

In advocating that further joint conferences be held, he said:

"Much remains to be done, and the road that has to be traveled may be difficult at times. But employers who stand in the way of this co-operation, who promote anti-labor legislation and fan the fires of class conflict, are as dangerous to the American system as the most subversive Communist now secretly plotting to take over our industry and government."

### SHEET METAL WORKERS WIN WAGE INCREASES

Chicago—Substantial wage increases, plus other improvements in working conditions, have been won for nearly 900 employees of various sheet metal plants here by Local 115 of the Sheet Metal Worker's International Association.

### AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY HIT HARDEST BY CUTBACK

Washington, D. C.—Hardest-hit will go to those unions which did not barter their trade union birth-right during the war is that of aircraft, the Surplus Property Administration revealed.

## Black Market Rackets Grip Nation, Business Paper Proves In Survey

New York City — All over the nation, "black market" racketeers are thriving as never before and making a joke out of OPA price ceilings, the "Wall Street Journal" revealed.

It summarized findings made by correspondents throughout the country. From these disclosures, the "Journal" concluded that "the black market is blazing a spectacular career."

"The fact is that evasion or outright violation of OPA regulations is nearer the rule than the exception," the paper declared. "Ceiling price enforcement is shot full of holes. Black markets in cars, trucks, housing, building materials, home furnishings, hosiery and foods are rampant from coast to coast."

The business paper cited a growing practice among landlords who, while technically obeying rent ceilings, sock prospective tenants a huge price for furnishings.

In Chicago, the paper said, "it is

not uncommon" for an applicant in order to get a 3- or 4-room apartment, to pay as much as \$2,500 for furnishings, worth only a fraction of the amount.

In the clothing industry around New York, the "Journal" revealed, jobbers "fake invoices to show, for example, that a manufacturer got twice the 50,000 yards of cloth he actually received, and the manufacturer, anxious to stay in business, pays up and shuts up."

Automobile garages are engaging in one of the "biggest rackets," particularly in the nation's capital, the "Journal" asserted. Many garages, it said, soak drivers for repairs at least twice what the job should be worth, and then do such poor workmanship that the cars must be brought back.

Crookedness among business men plus willingness of too many consumers to pay more than ceiling prices are given much of the blame for the situation by the "Journal."

## Sen. O'Daniel Evicts Blind Man And Thirteen Others From Homes

Washington, D. C. — Oscar H. Smith is blind, but he manages to make a living by selling cigars and candy. He memorized the route from his home in Washington to his cigar counter, so he could go back and forth alone.

Senator "Pappy" O'Daniel, Texas labor hater, has just evicted this blind and aging man from one of the 14 apartments in the 40-room Washington building O'Daniel claims he needs to house himself and his family.

Smith had to move to Arlington, a suburb across the Potomac. The

route from there to his cigar stand is so long and complicated he has to hire a guide to take him back and forth.

O'Daniel also evicted the other 13 tenants in the midst of the desperate Washington housing shortage, but putting out he blind man was his choicest performance.

"Pappy" has been subjected to so much criticism because of these evictions that he now protests he must have the building so he may setup a "free home for veterans." Heretofore, "Pappy" has contended he needed the 14 apartments for his family.

## The AFL Presents... "AMERICA UNITED" At 1:15 P.M., EWT. Over NBC

| Date    | Topic                     | Panel Members   |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| Feb. 3  | Nedd for Health Insurance | Nelson Cruikshank, AFL<br>Senator Pepper, of Florida<br>Russell Smith, National Farmers Union |
| Feb. 10 | Long-Range Home Plans     | Boris Shishkin, AFL<br>Senator Wagner, of New York<br>Russell Smith, National Farmers Union   |