



The Charlotte Labor Journal

(AND DIXIE FARM NEWS)

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HOUSING BILL ENDORSED BY CHARLOTTE CLU

Votes To Support Senate Measure For New Homes For Veterans And Others

Charlotte Central Labor Union at its regular weekly meeting Thursday night voted to endorse and support Senate Bill No. 1592 which is a measure designed to accelerate the building of low cost housing throughout the nation for veterans, war workers and others in need of living quarters. The proposed legislation is designed, in part, to erect homes up to the \$6,000 class and arrange for priorities on materials to take care of returning veterans and war workers first.

This measure has received the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor and is foremost on the legislative MUST list of the AFL.

In line with a program that has been initiated by the American Federation of Labor the Charlotte Central Labor Union will put forth efforts to mobilize both labor and citizen co-operation to meet the housing emergency.

President William Green of the AFL has called upon 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 co-operate 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."

Army Wit

Major: Look here, Private Quack, I had you taken off latrine duty to give you a job in my office, because you had been telling everybody that you were a good stenographer. And dash it all on this first letter, that I dictated, you have misspelled practically every word!"

Private Quack: "Gosh, sir—there must be something wrong with the typewriter!"

Lewis Sees Historic Turning Point As Green Hails His Return To AFL

Miami—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers Union of America, was formally welcomed back into the American Federation of Labor at a meeting of the Executive Council and responded with a spirited statement hailing the union's return to the fold as a "turning point in the history of labor."

AFL President William Green invited Mr. Lewis to participate with him in a joint press conference after the council meeting. As flashlights popped and newscasters ground out on the scene for movie audiences, Mr. Green announced he had extended a "warm, hearty and cordial welcome" to Mr. Lewis on his arrival here to take his seat on the council as the AFL's thirteenth Vice President.

Mr. Lewis was then asked to state his opinion of the significance of the reaffiliation. He said:

"The United Mine Workers have come back to the American Federation of Labor because they feel it is a constructive action. This reaffiliation is in the interests of the labor movement and of the country as a whole. It will give added protection to our system of free enterprise and to the free institutions of our country. The American Federation of Labor and the United Mine Workers are on record throughout the years as protectors of the freedom of the people both against external and internal foes.

"Obviously the pooling of the collective strength of the United Mine Workers and the American Federation of Labor makes the federation the most representative and dominant labor organization in America. I think the American people will recognize that fact increasingly.

"Unity of labor's policies in America is desirable. Attainment of that unity is labor's task and obligation.

"Without question this new development constitutes an object

lesson that will be approved by American workers as a whole and sustained by every thoughtful citizen.

"Labor's strength has been increased by many millions in the last decade. Certainly labor owes an obligation to America to place its internal house in order. It must speak with a more influential voice in the realms of industry and in the high councils of the nation.

"This reaffiliation marks a historic turning point in the annals of labor. The ancient questions which in the past divided the house of labor have been abated. The important questions of the future are largely economic and industrial in character.

"The roll of workers employed in our country has grown to more than 51,000,000. This great number of workers, together with their dependents, constitute the bulk of our population. In every major sense, the workers and their families are the American public and the consuming public. They are entitled to have their opinions and policies given increasing recognition by the country as a whole.

"The weal or woe of America as a republic depends in a large degree on the future policies and decisions of those who work for a living. Their articulate voice is the union organization that represents them. Let it be known that labor in America is destined to play an increasingly greater part in our national economy."

To all questions as to whether he intended to lead other unions back to the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Lewis replied he did not care to "spell out" his plans at this time. He also turned a deaf ear to questions on politics.

As the press conference proceeded, the formality of address between Mr. Green and Mr. Lewis

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The Labor League for Human Rights was in the spotlight during the Mississippi State Federation of Labor Convention at Meridian. George L. Googe (center), Southern Director of the A. F. of L., is pictured presenting Labor League Awards of Merit to Secretary-Treasurer A. G. Davis (left) and President W. L. Hines (right). Mr. Googe reviewed the activities of the League and paid tribute to its national officers.

OPEN HOUSE AT LABOR TEMPLE FEBRUARY 23

Charlotte Central Labor Union has been perfecting plans for holding an open house since removal of the Labor Temple headquarters from the building on North McDowell street to 317-1-2 North Tryon street. Saturday, February 23, from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m., has been designated as the date for the event and all members of organized labor and their friends are invited to visit Labor Temple headquarters on this date.

Refreshments will be served those who attend and a nice program has been arranged by the committee in charge.

Members of the open house committee are Claude Nolan, S. L. Hicks and D. L. Funderburke.



Frank P. Fontana, Director of Organization, American Federation of Labor, was today presented with a special citation for distinguished service rendered to the United States Treasury in the War and Victory Bond Campaigns. Left to right: James L. Houghteling, Director, National Organizations Division; Frank P. Fontana, Director Organization, American Federation of Labor; Gilbert E. Hyatt, Sr., Chief, Labor Section, War Finance Division; Ernest J. Fontana, Regional Representative, Labor Section, War Finance Division.

HOUSE VOTES TO RETURN STATE JOB PLACEMENT

Washington, D. C.—Bluntly rejecting President Truman's and labor's recommendations, the House of Representatives voted to return control of the U. S. Employment Service to the states by June 30.

A similar bill has been referred to the Senate Labor Committee which is showing no haste in acting upon it.

If the measure also passes in the Senate, the probability is that President Truman will veto it, as he did when a similar bill came before him a few weeks ago.

Rep. Richard J. Welch, of California, led the fight against the bill in the House. He declared millions of returning veterans and war workers need guidance to new jobs and that this important task can be better accomplished, at least during reconversion, by a nationally-directed system than by 48 separate state agencies.

Smokey Says:



Do your part to protect the woods. Put out small fires. If the blaze is too much for you, notify at once the nearest forest ranger or fire warden.

AFL Supports Chilean Federation In Critical Struggle With Gov't

Miami.—The AFL Executive Council pledged support to the Chilean Federation of Labor in its critical fight to maintain the integrity of the trade union movement in that country against government interference.

The council protested against the attempts of the Chilean government to order the dissolution of the Nitrate Workers Union which operates in an industry financed and directed by American business interests. Its statement follows:

"The Chilean government has ordered the dissolution of the Nitrate Workers' Unions. In response to this action, the Chilean Federation of Labor, headed by Bernardo Ibanez, has announced its determination to call a general strike for 24 hours against this drastic governmental interference with the basic right of workers everywhere to have their own organization with leadership of their own choosing.

"We hereby declare our solidarity with the workers of Chile in the struggle to maintain their fundamental rights of organization in the face of such irresponsible governmental action and in an industry which is financed and in its upper levels managed by United States business interests and their representatives.

"This attempt at destruction of trade union organizations seems to us a clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Declaration of Social Principles which was incorporated as a basic charter in the Act of Chapultepec at Mexico City, 1945, where representatives of United States labor joined

with those of business and government in promulgating the active principles which are intended to motivate the peoples and governments of the Western Hemisphere."

IN MEMORIAM — FDR

Manila, P. I.—The thousands of veterans and GI's passing through here will not forget the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. One of the most recent Red Cross club installations, in the luxurious Jail Alai Fronton, has been named in honor of the leader who died just before peace came.

Generous Terms Offered For Return Of Brewers

Miami.—Generous terms for reaffiliation were offered to the United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers Union by the AFL Executive Council.

A delegation from the union, headed by Secretary-Treasurer William J. Kromelbein, appeared before the council and asked for an "honorable settlement" of the dispute which brought about the suspension of the union in 1939.

Mr. Kromelbein informed the council that the union's executive board had voted unanimously to make a bid for reaffiliation provided suitable terms could be arranged. He asked the council to make a definite proposition which the delegation could submit to a conference of the Brewery Work-

Council Endorses Concerted Drive To Meet Nation's Housing Crisis

Miami.—The American Federation of Labor pledged its full aid to the government and to the construction industry for a concerted drive to meet the nation's critical housing shortage.

After a careful analysis of the varied problems involved, the Executive Council recommended concrete steps for improvement of the immediate housing emergency and for solving America's long-term need for new homes.

The text of the council's statement follows:

"The American Federation of Labor, its Central Labor Unions, Building and Construction Trades Councils, and other affiliates in local communities are organized and prepared to give the fullest measure of co-operation to the industry and the government, federal and local, in a concerted drive to meet the critical housing shortage.

"The building and construction trade unions of the AFL are formulating a series of positive programs to assure to the nation an ample supply of building trade mechanics and laborers in all classifications of skill in every community to build the volume of housing construction urgently required under the existing conditions. Full cooperation is being given by our unions in developing and putting into effect apprentice training programs to provide employment opportunities under fair labor standards to returning veterans and to workers displaced from war jobs. Our unions have assumed their full share of responsibility in expediting these programs which have already been set up in cooperation with contractors under the standards approved by the Apprentice Training Service of the Department of Labor. There are today nearly 12,000 contractors who have joined with unions in establishing area-wide programs in 800 communities. The Executive Council commends the Building and Construction Trades Department for its leadership in this vital work.

"Acute shortage of certain scarce building materials is the biggest barrier in the way of rapid expansion of home construction. We urge the adoption of the following emergency programs to accelerate increased home construction and expedite reconversion: "1—Congressional appropriation to establish a revolving fund for loans and special financial aids to building materials manufacturers which would enable them to ex-

pand production to capacity volume. Requirement of minimum wage standards as a condition of such financial aid.

"2—Immediate action to raise the low wages which prevail in the manufacture of certain building materials to a fair standard. Provision should be made for price adjustments in cases where wages have been actually corrected, but only where there is a proved need to modify price ceilings for this purpose.

"3—A temporary emergency program of allocation of scarce building materials which would:

"a. Assure a supply of materials for the essential minimum of industrial and other nonresidential construction, and

"b. Direct the flow of the bulk of building materials into the construction of moderate-priced and low-rent homes under firm quality standards. This temporary allocation program should be decentralized in order to fit the needs of different areas and should be subject to quarterly revisions. Allocation should be terminated as soon as the supply of materials is adequate.

"Wage incomes are being generally reduced. Wage earners and veterans must be protected against further increases in the cost of living due to inflated cost of shelter. Continuation of effective rent control until the supply of rental dwellings is adequate is a vital necessity to all workers and to the whole nation.

"The postwar housing emergency was aggravated but not created by the war. It is the outgrowth of a quarter-century of failure to provide an adequate supply of moderate-priced homes within reach of families of small means. America's housing emergency will not be met by emergency means alone. We make an emphatic call upon Congress to enact without delay the Wagner-El

ander-Ladd General Housing Bill, S. 1592, which embodies a long-range program for housing families of all incomes with the maximum reliance on private enterprise and local initiative. This bipartisan legislation contains the major objectives of the national housing policy formulated by the AFL and has the unqualified support of the great mass of wage earners. It is the only program which will provide the complete answer to America's housing need.

"The Executive Council welcomes the appointment of Wilson Wyatt as the National Housing Expediter and his nomination as the Administrator of the National Housing Agency. The AFL will give Mr. Wyatt fullest co-operation in every sound measure he undertakes to accomplish his difficult task. The nation-wide drive just launched by President William Green and Chairman Harry C. Bates of the AFL Housing Committee in 800 communities for labor's active aid in carrying out local programs is evidence of labor's preparedness to make a real contribution to the public interest.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WENT

Washington, D. C.—More than \$133,324,000 worth of foreign war relief was made available by and through the American Red Cross from September 1, 1939 up to June 30, 1945. It is estimated that more than fifty million people, among them nineteen million children, in 41 countries, benefited directly from this program.