

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL
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PAY BOOSTED WITHOUT STRIKES

American Federation of Labor unions are winning wage increases almost entirely without strikes. U. S. Department of Labor figures reveal. Out of 1,800,000 workers on strike or threatening to strike, as of January 18, only 112,000 were AFL union members.

Why is it that AFL unions can save their members the huge losses caused by strikes and yet win them large and lasting gains? The answer is that experienced AFL union leaders seek substantial progress through collective bargaining conducted privately with employers on a basis of fact and experience, with consideration of the interests of both sides.

The AFL regards collective bargaining in good faith as the normal procedure for establishing good relation with employers and working out the terms of employment in a contract. AFL unions have negotiated in good faith within the administration's declared wage-price policy. And this procedure is working, aiding in maintaining national purchasing power and in speeding reconversion to peacetime production.—Wilmington (Del.) Labor Herald.

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.

This 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 not more!" Warren insisted. "The wonder is not that there are interruptions to productions, but that the reconversion program is proceeding." — Fort Smith (Ark.) Union News.

TO ADDRESS OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon has accepted an invitation to address the annual convention of the Office Employees International Union being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin the week of March 18, according to Paul R. Hutchings, president, and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer. Morse, who is widely known

and respected in labor circles, is expected to deliver an address of major interest to the delegates attending the convention. With his background and his experience and knowledge of the labor movement and its problems, Senator Morse is particularly well qualified to address the convention delegates of this enterprising international union of the American Federation of Labor.

Prior to his election to the Senate following the death of former Senator Charles L. McNary, Morse served as a public member of the National War Labor Board and had previously served as Dean of the Law School of the University of Oregon. While serving in the latter capacity Senator Morse was frequently called upon to serve as an arbitrator and conciliator in labor matters on the Pacific coast, where his approach and fairness in the handling of industrial problems met with the acceptance of both labor and management.

The O. E. I. U. convention which is being held at the Hotel Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin commencing March 18th, is expected to take cognizance of the progress of the International Union since its inception and to give consideration to matters involving future progress in the unionization of office and clerical workers. The executive board of the International Union is meeting in Milwaukee prior to and following the convention.

MEET SMOKEY!

Today's edition of The Charlotte Labor Journal introduces "Smockey," an amiable cartoon bear, with a wise and timely forest fire prevention message. This inimitable character, wearing trousers and a forest ranger's hat, will present to our readers a weekly message on forest conservation and protection.

The importance of forests for providing lumber, and other woods products, has never been better recognized than today. The need for thousands of homes, increased paper output, and other products is urgent. Growing trees to meet these demands, and to provide work for local labor in this community will require protection from fire and mismanagement.

"Smockey's" little reminders will help bring these thoughts home to the public. Our readers will have an opportunity to make suggestions for drawings and sayings for new "Smockey Says." If you have an idea to suggest, submit it to the local State or Federal Forester, or send it direct to the U. S. Forest Service, Glenn Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia. Any suggestions made by our readers and used by "Smockey" will be credited to the person submitting the idea.

Microscopic
Waiter — This is the best restaurant in town. If you order eggs, you get the freshest in town. If you order hot soup, you get the hottest in town.
Diner — I believe you're right. I ordered a small steak.

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

LOOK TO YOUR LEADERS!

From the beginning of time the favorite alibi of a man, a nation or a race, for going astray has been the defection of the leader. He was the one to blame. He was the sin. The others simply followed. But that is one alibi that just does not hold water in a democratic society. For where the people determine upon their leader—he is their servant, not their boss — their representative, not their father, and he must be made to realize this!

In this hour when Labor is being severely criticized because of the misdeeds of some of its leaders, it doesn't matter how comparatively few these traitors to trade unionism are. It does matter that this condition exists at all, for Labor elects its own leaders.

Wherever a corrupt or dishonorable or self-seeking leader is in authority he stays there with the consent or through the toleration of those who placed him in such a position — or which is most usual — through their indifference. David Harum said, "You can't have an honest horse race, until you have an honest human race." And you can't have honest and honorable leaders unless the honest and honorable people will get out and put them into power and help them in every way to carry out their appointed tasks.

The crying need of the world today is leadership — in international relations, in national affairs, in local offices — and in all branches

of our daily life. Good leaders are hard to find because the task of conscientious, honest, objective leadership is a difficult, thankless one. As a people we are too apt to put up with mediocrity rather than to get out and bestir ourselves to find men who can properly represent us. We are too easily and too often taken in by a glib tongue and easy, confident manner.

Organized Labor must remember that its leaders represent the entire movement — that they are the embodiment of the things for which trade unionism stands, of the principles in which organized workingmen believe. You, the rank and file of Labor, can get rid of dishonest or self-seeking leaders if you want to. It is up to you to clean your own house of those whose major interest is their own profit or aggrandizement, for otherwise the work will be done from outside — perhaps unfairly and probably in ways you won't like.

All reform movements must come from beneath, and it is the rank and file of Labor who must speak out. You must select as leaders men of whose integrity you are sure. Once you have found such men, you must back them wholeheartedly, in action as well as in speech. If the leaders turn out well, you can take the credit. If they turn out badly — there is no alibi, for you chose them. As long as you tolerate such leaders and do not take steps to replace them, you remain responsible. Look to you leaders!

WORKING IT OUT

By Frances Perkins

The post-war period is bringing to light many stories which could not be told during the war — stories of heroism, intelligence, and skill in fighting for moral principles and moral purposes in the midst of the inhumanity of Nazi principles.

Vicar Andre, the pastor of St. Jean Baptiste Church in Namur, Belgium, is one of these gentle but persistent heroes. The informal report about him is written by Captain Harold Saperstein, Jewish chaplain with the American forces, who describes him as a "frail man, humble in demeanor, with a bashful smile." But this young priest, horrified at the inhuman and un-Christian persecution of the Jewish people in his own community by the Nazi occupying forces, risked his life over and over again to shelter and assist in hiding Jewish children and Jewish families, and in helping them to escape when necessary.

He began by helping a Jewish family who had been his personal friends. He gave up his own bed to them and slept on the floor of his study. When it became evident that all of the Jews in the town were in grave hazard he filled his house and hid them. He persuaded local Catholic parishoners to hide the persecuted in their own homes. He provided and carried food to Jewish people in hiding, and kept open the contacts between separated parents and children. He rescued and cared for Jewish children whose parents had been killed or sent to concentration camps. Orphan children he put in Catholic institutions for temporary care, where they were courageously hidden and their origin concealed. The Nazis finally caught up with him and he had to go into hiding himself. He had a good

hiding place apparently and took a number of the children with him, where they were discovered by the American troops in the liberation of Belgium.

Later dispatches and reports to Child Welfare International Agencies indicate that very many Belgium families in other towns took orphaned or separated Jewish children into their homes, claimed them as their kin, protected them, and came to love them. These examples of natural human feeling are again evidence of the good will and co-operation which exists between people of different religious and cultural backgrounds unless prejudice and discord are stirred up by forces making appeal to the lowest rather than the best elements in human nature. The propaganda of prejudice is subtle, penetrating, and likely to approach us when we are least aware of it.

The American labor movement has been a generous contributor to the relief of the victims of war and persecution, both in Europe and the East. Many of the trade unions have earmarked their contributions, as was natural for the use of families of workers, and to be distributed with the co-operation of local trade unionists where possible. Fortunately, they have also specified that their funds should be distributed without regard to race, creed, or color.

This is important in marking the determination of the American workers that they will not succumb to anti-Semitism and will stand with the decent people of the whole world in preventing inhumanities and persecutions of human beings.

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OFF THE BEAM

Reasonable
Wife—Drunk again!
Hubby — But thish time I had a spechial reason for gettin' drunk.

Wife—And what's the special reason?
Hubby—Whash the difference as long ash it sherved the purpose?

Good Neighbor Policy

Miami. — In furtherance of the good-neighbor policy, the American Federation of Labor's Executive Council voted here to undertake a program under which labor representatives from Latin America will be invited to come to the United States for a three-months study of conditions in this country.

The AFL designated Serafino Romualdi, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, to go to South America for the purpose of extending the invitations to those best qualified to participate. The program is being carried out with the cooperation of Survey Associates and the Office of Inter-American Affairs.

In making the announcement, the Executive Council said:

"The American Federation of Labor holds strong to the belief that the policy of the Good Neighbor is and should be an integral part of the postwar program of the peoples and governments of all the American Republics. The American Federation of Labor maintains that one of the great guarantees of continuity in such a policy is an increased and deepened understanding between the organized labor groups in the other American Republics and labor in the United States and Canada. Indeed such understanding is indispensable to a proper implementation of the Act of Chapultepec agreed to by all the American Republics in Mexico City in March, 1945.

"For this reason, the American Federation of Labor has designated Serafino Romualdi as its representative to participate in a visit to other American Republics to invite, through their organizations, bona fide labor people to come to the United States for a three-month's study of labor organizations, collective bargaining, employer-employee relationships, and

the usual trade union activities carried on in this country.

"This project is known as the Inter-American Trade Union project and the arrangements are being made by the Survey Associates, which has received a grant for this purpose from the Labor Relations Division of the Office of Inter-American Affairs. The study program in the United States for the trade unionists from the other American Republics is being arranged by representatives of organized labor with technical assistance to be furnished, when desired, by various government agencies."

HI, POP!

Washington, D. C.—Along with the box of cigars to pass out, prospective fathers these days are preparing themselves for the advent of offspring by taking the Red Cross Home Nursing Course through the local Red Cross chapter. That way they can better help the little woman take care of the newcomer with ease and skill. New papas needn't fumble anymore — they can learn where the pins and bottles belong.

Attend your Union meeting!



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