



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. 41

Published Weekly

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1946

Price 5c Per Copy

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

Wyatt Announces Emergency Plan For Low-Cost Houses

BATTLE LINE IN INDUSTRY

(Editor's Note: The author of this article is a sergeant now serving with the U. S. Air Forces in Europe. As an infantry squad leader he fought in the front lines through France and Germany. Purple Heart and all. Before that he worked for several years in an aircraft plant and held an important position in his union).

American industry is the scene of as bitter a battle as any we waged in Europe. I know, because I've fought in both. Industry is a battleground where men and ideas are violently at war. As returning servicemen, we will run head on into this turmoil. There will be many people, backing different ideas, who will bid for our loyalty.

While I served on the central council of my union in one of the giant aircraft plants on the West Coast, I found out about many groups who are working to gain control over hundreds of thousands of working men and women.

In my own union I discovered three types of leaders; the sincere men who really wanted to serve others; those who were chiefly interested in the power which leadership gave them and were out for their own selfish ends; and those who had no real philosophy and could be swayed one way or another.

Watch Divisive Forces

The Power-hungry boys were often the most in evidence and were always the most dangerous. They had endless tricks for splitting opposition to them. Sometimes they did this by stirring up arguments on hot issues such as wage adjustments or racial discrimination. They would attempt to discredit sincere leaders by smear tactics and they knew just how to exploit the lack of interest and information among the majority of the workers.

In my company, management, too, was as much divided by selfish motives. Some of the executives refused time and again to co-operate with sincere and honest union representatives. They feared

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Robert W. Coyne addressing Business Agents of the Washington, D. C. Central Labor Union.

Social Security Board Offers Co-operation Filing Claims

LATIMER RESIGNS AS RETIREMENT CHIEF

Washington, D. C. — President Truman accepted "with real regret" the resignation of Murray W. Latimer, who has served as chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board since it was established more than 10 years ago. He made a distinguished record.

The President persuaded him to continue serving the government on a special assignment as research director for a guaranteed annual wage study being conducted by the Labor - Management Advisory Board to the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Latimer and his staff will examine all annual wage programs now operating in private industry and eventually will make recommendations for application of a model plan to many more industries.

Easy To Learn

Mrs. (learning to drive)— But I don't know what to do now! Mr.—Just imagine that I'm driving.

Silence Is Golden

Mrs.—Do you still love me? Mr.—Yes, better than any other way.

The Social Security Board is offering its full co-operation to workers and former workers who have reached the age of 65 in an effort to help them avoid any loss of benefits through delay in filing claims, says Lone T. Proctor, manager of the board's office in Charlotte.

"Any person who has worked enough in private industry and commerce to be insured under the old-age and survivors insurance program can file a claim at age 65 to peg his benefits at a point below which they cannot fall," Mr. Proctor said. "Then, if he keeps on working, or if he gets a new job, and his wage record would produce higher benefits at a later date, he may file a request to have his benefit recalculated to give him the higher rate."

Mr. Proctor pointed out that his office has been urging workers for some time to confer with the Social Security board officials upon reaching age 65, in order to protect full benefit rights.

"A great many workers have done just that," Mr. Proctor said, "but many have not. They have been under the impression that once a claim was filed, the benefit could not be changed even though subsequent work might produce a higher potential benefit figure."

"That was true for a time, but last year the board inaugurated a method of recalculation which will keep benefits from going down, once a claim is filed, but will not keep them from going up. If workers and former workers in private industry and commerce, who have passed the age of 65, will just come in to see us, we will give them the information and help necessary to protect their full benefit rights."

Mr. Proctor pointed out that his statement does not mean that a person can draw benefits while working in jobs covered by the Social Security act. The law, he explained, provides that benefits must be given up for any month in which the worker earns more than \$14.99 in covered employment, but benefits can be stopped and resumed as often as the worker moves in and out of covered jobs.

The Charlotte office of the Social Security Board is located at 122 East Third street, and is open from 8:30 a. m. to 4:40 p. m. Mondays through Fridays.

GLASS BOTTLE BLOWERS DEFEAT RAID BY CIO

Okmulgee, Okla. — The Glass Bottle Blowers Association (AFL) won a 3-to-1 election victory over the CIO among the employees of the Ball Brothers plant here. The CIO union which attempted to raid the AFL organization for collective bargaining rights was repulsed by a vote of 141 to 51.



Left to right: Mr. Frank P. Fenton, Director of National Organizations—AFL; Mr. Robert W. Coyne, National Field Director, U. S. Savings Bonds Division; Ernest Fontana, Regional Representative, U. S. Treasury; Frank W. Lee, Trustee, Central Labor Union.



Mr. Frank Fenton addressing Business Agents luncheon of Washington, D. C. Central Labor Union.

Washington Central Labor Union Leading Unions In Endorsing Pay Roll Savings

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—

(Special)—Leading Organized Labor of the nation in complete endorsement of William Green's letter, to all AFL organizations, in support of the continuation of the Payroll Savings Plan, the Central Labor Union of Washington, D. C., and the Building Trades Union, one of its largest components, pledged their active support through resolutions adopted at their regular meetings and announced at the Washington C. L. U. Business Agents luncheon recently held at the Mayflower hotel here. Principal speakers at the luncheon were Frank P. Fenton, director of National Organizations—AFL, and Robert W. Coyne, national field director of the Government Savings Bond division of the U. S. Treasury.

Mr. Fenton in addressing the Business Agents said in part, "In the beginning of the war period there was a strong urgent movement for compulsory saving. When the then Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau, said that he did not believe compulsion was necessary in the savings program, this view was proven to be sound by the voluntary response of organized labor. This thinking did not come from members of the Congress, it came from the American workers. Trade unionists decided the voluntary way was the best way and proved it. Now we are asked again by Secretary Vinson to get behind a postwar bond drive in a voluntary way. I hope we will demonstrate in a voluntary way that the AFL will keep its pledge by doing everything we possibly can. We should do it because all of the movements going on in the world have serious implications. One of the greatest looming dangers is inflation. I know how trade unionists act. We should convince the American workers to buy all the bonds they can afford in order to prevent inflation and have a 'cushion' if it comes. The present forecast looks very bright—but there is the possibility of a serious depression. If the unions will urge their members to buy bonds now, they will have security to tide them over the depression and to maintain prosperity by purchasing power. Use this meeting or meetings similar to this to work up an organized campaign in the city of Washington and in the nation to buy bonds and continue payroll savings."

Mr. Coyne in giving full credit to the vital part Organized Labor has played in the success of the bond programs said, "I think this bond program must be understood—most people feel that it is a Treasury program, that by supporting the bond program they are doing something the Treasury has asked them to do. The bond program was conceived by the Treasury back in 1935, and carried out by the American workers."

"Mr. Fenton pointed out that this opinion that it is a Treasury program has been changed by the workers of the nation and it is being continued because of you and those whom you represent have come forward and said in effect, 'we have built this program, it benefits the country, it benefits the workers and we want it continued.' It was only after pressure was received from business organizations, labor unions, etc., that the Treasury consented to act as the agent of the workers. I think I could prove to you, if I had the time, that the support and the building of this program by the American workers has been the reason for its success."

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Smokey Says:



Wildfire in the woods destroys a community asset as well as personal property. Good neighbors help fight fire whenever needed. Be a good neighbor!

Program, Primarily For Vets, Seeks Long-Range Solution

Washington, D. C.—An All-out emergency program to build 2,700,000 new homes for veterans during the next two years was announced by Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt.

It foresees the stopping of all deferrable and nonessential construction to release labor and materials for living units costing—for the most part—\$6,000 and under.

Congress is asked to authorize the immediate use of 600 million dollars in subsidies to spur production of building materials.

President Truman declared the program has the unequalled endorsement of the administration. He urged its acceptance by Congress and the public.

AFL President William Green and Chairman Harry C. Bates, of the AFL Housing Committee, promptly pledged their full support to the emergency program.

In a letter to the President they said:

"Mr. Wyatt's program requests that we do what seems to be impossible. The records show we did what seemed impossible when we were fighting to win the war. Organized labor shared unstintingly with others in the all-out effort to reach and surpass what seemed to be unattainable goals. Please be assured that we will do what seems to be impossible again in order to meet the gravest emergency of peace."

Bi-partisan support of the housing program in Congress appeared certain after a conference by Wyatt with members of the House Banking Committee, who agreed to expedite a measure carrying out the major recommendations of the emergency plan.

Wyatt's major recommendations and goals are:

1—The starting of 1,200,000 homes this year. Of these, 700,000 would be conventional in style, while 250,000 would be permanent prefabricated houses, and 250,000 would be temporary units.

For 1947 the goal is raised to 1,500,000 homes. Of these, 900,000 would be conventional and 600,000 permanent prefabricated. If recommended legislation is passed promptly enough to insure high gear operation by end of

March, Wyatt said some three million homes would have been built under the program by April, 1948.

The largest home building program ever before attempted in this country was in 1925, when 937,000 units were completed.

2—Preference for veterans and their families in purchase and rentals, with appropriate provisions for nonveteran hardship cases.

3—Greatly expanded production of conventional and "new type" materials, obtained by "firm and timely use, and where necessary," of:

(a) Premium payments for production.

(b) Guaranteed markets for materials manufacturers.

(c) Priorities and allocations of equipment and materials.

(d) Wage-price adjustments or price increases where they are necessary and not inflationary.

(e) Use of war plants and new facilities to increase present production capacity.

(f) Rapid tax amortization for plants which are newly built or converted to produce essential building materials.

(g) Absorption by the government of undue risks in developmental work on new-type materials.

4—Recruiting and training of 1,500,000 additional workers, both on and off building sites, by the middle of 1947. This would more than triple the present labor force engaged in residential construction, Wyatt said.

5—Postponement of all deferrable and nonessential construction for the balance of 1946.

6—Rapid expansion of factory fabrication of materials and parts, as well as complete low cost homes by making materials available and guaranteeing the market for the product.

7—Priorities and allocations to home builders for equipment and materials.

8—Federal co-operation and assistance where necessary in the development of home sites.

9—Channeling the largest part of materials into homes and rental housing, both farm and urban, selling for not more than \$6,000

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Pegler's Column Dropped By Another Newspaper

Washington, D. C.—Another newspaper—the Stamford (Connecticut) "Advocate," with a circulation of nearly 20,000—has kicked out the column of Westbrook Pegler, because it can not stomach his misrepresentations.

What brought matters to a head was a column in which Pegler grossly distorted a recent demonstration by all of Stamford labor in support of a bitter strike at the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company in Stamford.

All unions in the towns knocked off work for 3 hours so show their solidarity with the Machinists, who are resisting an attempt by the management of Yale & Towne to restore the "open shop."

The demonstration was entirely peaceful, but Pegler pictured it as a rally of "riotous forces" and "potential killers" in support of "assault and anarchy." The editor ran that column, but it was the last. In an editorial, he explained why he decided to "kill" Pegler's rantings for good.

He pointed out that Pegler "from the vantage point of his

home in Arizona or his New York hotel apartment," without even coming near Stamford, had written an entirely false picture of the demonstration, and that in doing so he had violated the basic standards of fair reporting.

As a result, the accuracy of all other Pegler columns had become suspect, the editor said.

As a further reason for ousting Pegler, the editor wound up by quoting one of the nation's best-known editors—Erwin Dean Canham of the "Christian Science Monitor"—one the dangers to a free press arising from indiscriminate use of unscrupulous columnists.

"One aspect of newspaper irresponsibility is the latitude granted to some syndicated columnists," Canham declared.

"To their doors is beaten a path by those motivated by malicious gossip, revenge and character assassination. And no man is safe from these weapons. . . . Will not this continual nursing of demagogic power in the hands of a few keyhole columnists react against newspapers in the long run?"

"Ghost" Employment Bill Approved By Congress

Washington, D. C.—Congress killed the Full Employment Bill and then approved a pale and anemic substitute which was dispatched, like a ghost, to the White House for Presidential approval.

The new measure is called the "Maximum Employment, Production and Purchasing Power Act," which makes it long on title even though it may fall short of performance.

The amended bill very carefully refrains from committing the government to any responsibility for guaranteeing jobs to American workers and it also eliminates the proposal for a federal job budget through which the President would estimate the number of jobs available in private industry each year and urge measures to take up employment slack.

Senator James E. Murray, sponsor of the original Full Employment Bill, warned that a "desperate effort" would be made by opponents of the legislation "to misconstrue and thereby destroy" even the substitute bill. Otherwise, he took an optimistic view as he suggested these recommendations to

make the new law more effective than it appears to be on paper:

That basic responsibility for developing the employment program within the executive branch rests with the President, and not with the council of economic advisers, created by the bill.

That those selected for this council "must believe in the objective of full employment, in the basic responsibility of the federal government for maintaining conditions of full employment and in the need for the government to utilize all its resources for the purpose of discharging this responsibility" in line with the measure's declaration of policy.

That program offices be established in all the various governmental agencies so that the employment program can be planned "with the full participation of specialized experts in every branch of the federal government."

Although the Senate and House conferees eliminated the words "full employment," Mr. Murray said that the conference bill con-

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