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AFL Labor Gathering In Asheville May 11-12 Will Be Greatest In History Of Southern Conferences

(Special to Labor Journal)
Although final arrangements are far from complete the Third Biennial Southern Labor Conference at Asheville, North Carolina, on May 11 and 12 will, it appears, become the greatest gathering of its kind in the history of the American Federation of Labor, far exceeding in attendance any of the National conventions.

President William Green, Secretary Treasurer George Meany, Director of Organization Frank P. Fenton of the national office will be among the principal speakers. President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers will make his first appearance in many years before an audience of American Federation of Labor delegates. President William L. Hutcheson of the Carpenters, John Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department, and Nelson Cruikshank, Director of Social Security Activities, are among others from Washington who are already scheduled to speak.

George L. Googe, Southern Representative of the A.F. of L., is in charge of arrangements for the conference and will also direct the long delayed drive for an additional 1,000,000 members in the South, which will begin upon conclusion of the Asheville meeting.

"Our plans for Asheville will not be completed for at least another week," Mr. Googe stated yesterday. "We expect nearly all members of the Executive Council to be in Asheville, and from present indications 95 per cent of the International Presidents plan to attend. If it were not for previous engagements which could not be cancelled we would have 100 per cent attendance in both instances.

"This will be the largest and most important gathering of American Federation of Labor officials ever held on a local level. It will be of vital importance to every wage earner in the South and of particular significance to our American Federation of Labor delegates. I ask that every local union send as many delegates as possible. They will leave with a better understanding of our problems and will be well equipped to meet conditions in the turbulent period which lies ahead.

"Everyone in the South realizes wartime restrictions caused us to abandon our Biennial Conference and to delay our expanded organizational drive. We continue to be handicapped in wage negotiations by governmental regulations and formulas which are particularly unfair to some Southern industries. Our record of achievement in the South can stand up under the most critical observation. In ten years our membership has risen from 430,000 to 1,800,000 and in many instances wages have been doubled. Deliver us from the interference of governmental restrictions and we will show at least as great an increase in the next ten years.

"I am compelled to publicly reply to the utterly fantastic propaganda appearing daily in the press through the activity of the high powered dual movement publicity men. The C.I.O. claims 1,000,000 members in the South, and state they have accumulated a slush fund of several millions of dollars to 'organize' the South. They don't have one tenth of what they claim and even if backed with the resources of the U. S. Treasury would never succeed in organizing the South. In the first place the Federation already has pretty well or-



JOHN L. LEWIS

President of the United Mine Workers of America, and an AFL vice president. Mr. Lewis will attend the Southern Labor Conference meeting in Asheville May 11-12 and address the gathering.

THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYERS VIOLATE U. S. LABOR LAWS

New York City.—Thousands of employers have been violating federal labor laws, the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division of the U. S. Labor Department revealed.

Studies by government inspectors revealed that of 44,300 establishments visited, 32,800, or 74 per cent, were found violating the law. It was discovered also that 50 per cent were violating the minimum wage and overtime provisions.

The report showed that one out of every four cases of violations concerned an employer failing to pay his workers the required 40-cent per hour required under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employers guilty of such practices, officials said, can be fined up to \$10,000, or, in the case of a second violation, can be jailed for six months in addition to the fine. In addition, the worker is entitled to sue for double the back pay due him.

WORK CLOTHES PRICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Immediate increase of 12 to 15 per cent in retail prices for work clothes has been authorized by OPA.

WAGE AND JOB SECURITY SOUGHT IN FILM INDUSTRY

Washington, D. C.—Determination to devise security in the job and wage security in the motion picture industry was expressed in the annual report of Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The time has come," Mr. Johnston declared, "to study means and methods of securing continuity of employment. Unquestionably, much of labor's unrest comes from a feeling of job insecurity. The higher wages which this industry pays over wage rates to comparable skills in the Los Angeles area is merely an attempt to give financial demeritation for job insecurity.

"I realize full well the inherent causes of intermittent employment in this industry. Nevertheless, we must go on exploring means and methods to secure the maximum job continuity.

"We speak of the motion picture as an art-industry. We take pride in its being the democratic art. This is only half the story. Let us complete it by making this industry industrially democratic.

"Now that we have passed the emergency precipitated by last year's jurisdictional strike in Hollywood, we must begin to develop a long-range labor relations policy. First of all we must rectify any glaring mistakes and abuses which have prevailed."

RETAIL CLERKS SCORE

San Jose, Calif.—A precedent in the retail industry for both wage increases and a contract guaranteeing a profit-sharing plan has been set in the agreement signed by the Retail Clerks' Union, Local 428, (AFL) and Hart's Department Store.

Union Secretary J. P. McLoughlin announced basic pay raises amount to 18 1-2 per cent on an overall basis.

A.F.L. Officials Pledge Co-operation

President Green

Secretary Meany



American Federation of Labor officials have left no stones unturned toward making the Southern Labor conference meeting in Asheville Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, a huge success. At this meeting plans will be laid for organizing the unorganized workers in every city, village and hamlet in Dixie and advance information indicates that Asheville will be deluged for hotel reservations for the gathering. Reading from left to right: William Green, president of the American Federation; George L. Googe, southern director who will be the directing head of the southern director, who will be the directing head of the southern director of the American Federation of Labor.

ENDORSEMENT OF UNION LABEL BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Washington, D. C.—President Truman's citation of the value of the union label as a protection for consumers was incorporated in a radio program, "The Shield of Protection," presented by the Union Label Trades Department of the AFL over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Emphasizing the importance of labels as a consumer guide to the content and quality of goods he purchases, the President wrote:

"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, the Union Label Trades Department will enable them to give added impetus to the establishment and maintenance of fair labor standards."

The AFL Presents . . .

BOILERMAKERS DRAFT ORGANIZING PLANS

Kansas City, Kan.—Intensive organizing drives are to be inaugurated soon as the result of plans drafted at the recent Boilermakers' (AFL) International Conference in Denver, the brotherhood announced. These campaigns are to be pressed vigorously in all branches of the boilermakers' trade, with special attention to areas not previously thoroughly organized. Plans also were made to build a stronger organization in shipyards, navy yards, railroads, petroleum industry, contract shops and other fields.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Many issues highly important to organized labor face a tie-up in Congress under increasing pressure for an early summer adjournment.

Forthcoming radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 3:45 p. m., Eastern Time, over the nationwide Columbia Broadcasting System, are listed below for the information of trade unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans to tune in:

May 4—Printing Trades. John B. Haggerty, president of the International Allied Printing Trades Association; and Oscar Whitehouse, secretary of the union employers of the Printing Industry of America, will talk from a printing plant in Washington, D. C.

May 11—Truck Transportation. Members of the Teamsters' Union will be interviewed from an over-the-road lunchroom stop in the Chicago area.

COAL PARLEY DRAGS ALONG; MINES CLOSED

Washington, D. C.—Negotiations between the United Mine Workers Union and the operators of the nation's bituminous coal mines continued deglutatorily without visible evidence of progress while the mines stayed shut.

UMW President John L. Lewis put the operators at a psychological disadvantage when he urged that the negotiations be conducted in public and the management representative refused. The union leader insisted that the operators have failed thus far to make any satisfactory offer for improving health and safety conditions in the mines.

The union is insisting that this vital matter be settled before any consideration is given to the formulation of increased pay scales. Another issue in the negotiations is the unionization of supervisory employes, which has been sanctioned by a recent NLRB decision.

Meanwhile, many steel plants in the nation began feeling the pinch of coal shortages and were forced to curtail operations. Other industries are expected to be hard hit unless the dispute is settled within the next three weeks.

Government officials continued their hands-off policy, except for offering the services of a U. S. conciliator, but rumors persisted that the Labor department and other Federal agencies are drawing plans for stepping into the picture if the shutdown is maintained beyond an emergency deadline.

Washington, D. C.—Plans to launch the most intensive organizing drive ever undertaken in the South by the trade union movement were announced by AFL President William Green.

The main goal of the campaign is to enroll 1,000,000 new members in AFL unions in the next year, Mr. Green said. The drive will be directed entirely by the executive officers of the 12 State Federations of Labor in the South and George L. Googe, AFL southern representative.

At a week-end meeting in Atlanta, AFL southern leaders completed plans for the third biennial Southern Labor Conference to be held May 11 and 12 at Asheville, N. C.

The organizing drive will be launched at this conference, which will be attended by delegates from 8,600 AFL local unions now functioning in the South, city and district councils and state federations of labor.

Mr. Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Vice President William L. Hutcheson, John L. Lewis and other members of the AFL Executive Council, will address the conference, along with officers of the Railway Employees Department, the Building and Construction Trades Department, the Metal Trades Department, the Government Employees Council and the Union Label Trades Department.

The Spring meeting of the AFL Executive Council will be held here immediately following the conference at Asheville and presumably will consider ways and means of supporting the southern drive with assistance from the national organization as well as all affiliated unions.

The Southern Labor Conference, the largest regional labor gathering in the nation, will include delegates from West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Among important items on the agenda besides the organizing drive, are:

1. Co-ordination of national and state legislative and political activities in the South.
 2. Hastening of reconversion and expansion of industrial activity in the South through union-management co-operation.
 3. Marshalling of labor forces to resist inroads of Communism and subversive elements.
 4. Mobilization of labor support for the advancement of the economic and social welfare of southern agriculture through co-operation with farmers' organizations.
- The Southern Labor Conference originally was scheduled to be held in 1944 but had to be postponed because of wartime travel restrictions. Attendance will be so large that special arrangements had to be made with the railroads and hotels to accommodate the delegates and guests.

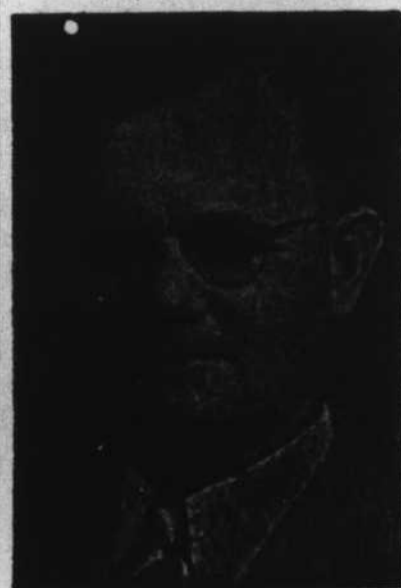
WINE, LIQUOR UNION PUTS 800 VETERANS INTO JOBS

New York City—More than 200 veterans with no previous experience in the trade have been put on the job at the full union scale by the New York City Local 1 of the Wine, Liquor and Distillery Workers (AFL).

Re-employment of more than 600 of its members who have been in service also has been arranged by the union. Eighty per cent have returned and each member found a job waiting for him, with all benefits of union wages and conditions.

N. C. Federation of Labor Officials

Left to right: C. A. Fink, president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor; J. A. Scoggins, first vice president from Charlotte, and H. C. Fisher, secretary and treasurer of the N. C. Federation, who will be present at the Asheville meeting and who will be actively at the head of North Carolina's contribution to the South-wide organization campaign to be launched at the Asheville meeting May 11 and 12. They will work under the direction of George L. Googe, southern director of the AFL.



Salisbury, N. C.—With the welfare of hundreds of thousands of unorganized and unprotected workers in mind, President C. A. Fink, of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, is appealing to Central Labor Unions and local unions throughout the state to quiz legislative candidates on the question of a State Minimum Wage Law before the voting takes place in the May primaries. With congress and the country debating a minimum wage of 65 cents an hour for all workers coming under protection of the Federal Wage-Hour



law, President Fink is concerned over the plight of the workers employed in purely intrastate plants and places of employment who do not come under the provisions of the Federal law.



behalf of the unorganized, unprotected, over-worked, underpaid and under-nourished thousands of workers who were and remain outside by the Federal Wage-Hour law. A strike of laundry workers in Charlotte less than a year ago brought to light the fact that these workers were being paid as low as 15 cents an hour. It is believed that candidates for the legislature will be consulted before the primaries as to their attitude on the question of minimum wages for the unprotected men and women of North Carolina.

This is no new thought with the groups of workers protected President Fink, as he endeavored to obtain the enactment of such a bill back in 1939, and aroused the state to feverish interest in

(Continued on Page 3)