

EDITORIAL

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

(and Dixie Farm News)

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The Labor Journal will not be responsible for opinions of correspondents, but any erroneous reflecting upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Labor Journal will be gladly corrected when called to the attention of the publisher. Correspondence and Open Forum opinions solicited.

AMERICA'S "SLAVE-LABOR" MEASURE

Some editorial writers and other biased thinkers have been having a field day since President Truman so undiplomatically and so thoughtfully appeared before Congress last week and requested one of the most damnable pieces of legislation ever proposed before the law-making body of the nation. The tone of his voice and the expression on his face as he spoke before Congress symbolized the atmosphere in which the shocking proposal had been born—that of fear and hysteria. However, it has well been said that some good comes out of every evil and unquestionably the act of the President of the United States has done more to solidify the working people and the farmers of the nation than anything that has happened since the war days. That is if we are to be judged by the protests lodged against the proposal by both labor and farmer councils throughout the nation.

This aftermath of the war days was bound to come to some kind of a head. An old sore that has existed since its inception back when Labor had its wages frozen, during the war and when prices were supposed to have been frozen also, the sore has gradually grown into a carbuncle of enormous proportions. Labor strife and strikes have been great and who dares say there will not be even greater chaos if the people of America are put into shackles under such proposals as that made by the President of the United States.

The Labor Journal does not believe the proposed bill would stand up before the Supreme Court, but nevertheless it could throw the country into nitfalls from which it would take a long time to climb if enforced upon Free America. It would be an infliction of unheard of proportions and not only would Labor suffer its ill effects but perhaps the industrialists of the country would come in for their share of governmental control and regulations not before experienced.

This hysterical experience should serve the country as a whole. Employers and employees MUST find out before it is too late that it is to their better interests to get together and work out their mutual problems between themselves. Labor is adverse to control of its affairs from anyone outside and employers, The Journal knows, are likewise opposed to it.

The American Federation of Labor has gone on record as being against sky-rocketing wages and running the prices of commodities up. There are those who would do away with all price controls. If this were done chaos would result. Goods would begin flowing to the market from storehouses, but prices would climb too, calling for wage increases and more wage increases—labor troubles and more labor troubles. So, it behooves all classes in America to get together and let public opinion be directed toward its law-making bodies in a sane way in order that they may set up regulations to carry America's through post-war days safely and sanely to a more pacific rendezvous.

Regretfully The Journal announces that the Senate passed a modified version of the Truman proposal. However, it was without the draft-labor proposal, for which all Americans should be grateful. The modified version now goes back to the House for its approval. Wire your Congressman immediately to cast his vote to kill this unAmerican proposal in its entirety.

THE SOUTHERN AFL ORGANIZING DRIVE

Charlotte has been selected as regional headquarters for the Southern organization campaign which was launched at the meeting in Asheville recently and Earl Britton, president of the South Carolina Federation of Labor, and a member of the International Typographical Union, has been selected by the American Federation of Labor to be in charge of the Charlotte office, which will serve both North Carolina and South Carolina. The selection of Charlotte as headquarters for the two States comes as a distinct honor to the Labor movement here, and the selection of Brother Britton was a wise one and is also a distinct honor to members of the printers of the ITU.

Earl Britton has been very active in South Carolina Labor circles for many years. He has been a tireless worker and The Journal can recommend him to members of organized Labor in North Carolina none too highly.

Charlotte Central Labor Union this week began laying plans for the campaign. Many national and international representatives were in attendance at the Thursday night meeting. Several nice talks were made by these representatives and they expressed themselves as being highly optimistic over the outlook for the work to be done here.

President J. J. Thomas of the CLU, who also is a member of the Charlotte Firefighters Union, affiliated with the AFL, says that all the AFL unions affiliated with the central body have promised full co-operation with the campaign.

At the meeting this week the Postal Carriers affiliated with the Central Labor Union and were welcomed into the organization by all affiliated locals.

Big things are in the offing! Don't miss the CLU weekly meetings at 8 o'clock each Thursday night, 317 1-2 North Tryon street.

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

AN UNSUNG HERO.

Unsung heroes in a country of 131,000,000 are bound to be numerous. Every day there are untold numbers of heroic deeds taking place about which the average citizen seldom learns. Outstanding among these heroes is the service officers of the local post of The American Legion. With over 14,000 such posts throughout the country, nearly every community is represented in one of these unheralded citizens.

For those of us who are not acquainted with him, let us define him in this manner: He is the representative of the local post elected to perform without remuneration any service which the post in its pledge of service to the community might be called upon to perform.

We might refer to him as being an ordinary citizen of the community who resides just down the street. Actually he is an ordinary personality or he would not have been elected to this office by his fellow post members. His services have no bounds. His office knows no hours. He is on call at all times—day or night.

He's the fellow who saw to it that food was not lacking in the Brown home during Mr. Brown's illness last month. He's the fellow who helped Bob Jones secure an honorable discharge after that unfortunate mishap. He's the fellow who assisted George

White in obtaining a loan under the GI Bill for his new hardware store. He's the fellow who secured widow's pension for Mrs. Green when her veteran husband passed on.

A shining and actual example of this man's devotion to duty is shown in this little story which took place some weeks ago in Texas. A post service officer was instructing a meeting of veterans on the ways in which they might aid their fellow veteran and his family, when word came in that a World War II veteran had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Leaving the meeting immediately, the post service officer rushed to the scene of the accident. Within thirty minutes, he had accomplished all the necessary details, had the injured veteran speeding on his way to the nearest veterans' hospital some miles away, and had returned to his meeting.

It is to the advantage of every citizen to acquaint himself with the local American Legion post service officer—veteran or non-veteran—Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. He is indeed "a friend in need."

With a thorough understanding of and a sincere sympathy for the wants and needs of the community and its citizens, the post service officer of The American Legion carries out the aims and purposes upon which that organization was founded.



"Working It Out"

by Frances Perkins

The degree to which progress is being made against unthinking prejudice—is illustrated interestingly in the rather deliberate and conscientious efforts that are being made to recognize talent, ability, courage, or achievement in a public way when some member of a minority group has distinguished himself in a worthy activity.

The late Wendell L. Willkie shortly before he died set up a fund for the purpose of making annual awards to Negroes who distinguished themselves in the field of journalism. He expressed himself when he set up the fund as feeling that the type of community service which could be rendered through good journalism by the Negroes was in need of encouragement and recognition and that good leadership in the Negro press would be one of the techniques by which this group of people would make substantial and practical progress in the world.

The presentation of the first awards under the Wendell L. Willkie Fund is therefore a matter of considerable interest. It is an award of \$500 for the first award, and \$250 each to two other persons. The first winner of the first prize was Miss Almena Davis, Editor of the weekly Los Angeles Tribune. In particular the work which distinguished her was the weekly feature article which she writes for that paper and which is regarded as a high quality of newspaper work.

The award was handed to Miss Davis by Mrs. Willkie. The ceremony took place at the United Nations Club in Washington and was attended by many people—those interested in Mr. Willkie, those interested in freedom of the press, those interested in the progress of the Negro race, and those interested in the United Nations Club itself. Mrs. Willkie speaking very briefly said that the occasion "symbolizes two ideas about which Wendell Willkie cared deeply, the importance of a free press, and the right of every citizen of the United

States to equal opportunity whatever his race, creed, or color."

The occasion was honored by the presence of Assistant Secretary of State, Spruille Braden, who also spoke and who underscored the need of breaking down barriers of ignorance and prejudice. He emphasized that people everywhere should have free access to information not only through books and magazines, but principally through the newspaper press and radio. He indicated that the occasion of these awards was a symbol of the liberal spirit which is the hope of mankind at the present time.

Two other Negro journalists, John H. Young of Pittsburgh and P. Bernard Young, Jr., of Norfolk, also received awards. This spirit of good will and recognition of good work in a professional field is encouraging. For people everywhere want and desire to be recognized for their merit. The bitterness comes when merit, good work, and honorable service is not recognized or given opportunity because of some artificial prejudice. There are many signs in American life today that good work and service will gain respect and recognition. The labor unions of America are to some extent assisting this progress, and in their own field of organization there are many helpful activities tending to recognize the merit and contributions of members of minority groups which no one has as yet undertaken.

JOBLESS RIGHTS OF VETS' CLARIFIED BY GOVERNMENT

Washington, D. C. — Veterans who take temporary jobs retain their rights to unemployment allowances after they are released, it was emphasized by the Veterans Administration in an attempt to clarify an apparent misunderstanding among some former servicemen regarding their benefit rights. Veterans are not required to claim unemployment payments immediately following their discharge from the armed services in order to protect their rights to benefits, the agency said.

SOUTH WELCOMES AFL DRIVE, ATLANTA EDITOR DECLARES

Asheville, N. C.—The "great majority" of the Southern people are not hostile to organized labor, Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, assured the Southern Labor Conference.

He said the South would hail the AFL's organizing drive if it succeeded in wiping out lower wage differentials which he termed "one of the curses of the South." This is one of the AFL's outstanding goals.

"The South expects you also to give the Negro worker a break," the Georgia editor declared to the applause of the delegates.

Geard D. Reilly, member of the National Labor Relations Board, told the conference that employers who respect labor's rights enjoy the best labor relations.

John Connors, head of the Workers Education Bureau, promised renewed efforts to spur educational drives in the South in conjunction with the AFL's organizing campaign.

D. G. Garland, a Negro organizer for the AFL, told the conference of the great progress made in the working and living conditions of Negroes who had joined AFL unions and scoffed at CIO attempts to lure Negro workers into their camp.

I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades department, stressed the importance of patronizing union services and buying union-made goods in building up a strong organized labor movement.

John P. Frey, veteran president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, sounded a sage note of advice to the Southern union delegates out of his life-time experience. Emphasizing that trade unions are made up of workers of all races, religious and political persuasions, he warned that the quickest way to break up a local union is to let racial, religious and political issues become a battleground of debate at meetings.

James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, pledged a strong organizing drive among Federal employees stationed in the South.

Frank P. Fenton, AFL National Director of Organization, gave a rousing address to the delegates. He told them that the success of the organizing campaign hinged primarily on their own efforts, rather than on outside help.

Michael Widman, of the United Mine Workers, was given enthusiastic cheers when he urged united labor support for the coal miners' strike and when he decried the leaders of the rival CIO organizing campaign in the South.

Joseph P. McCurdy, president of the United Garment Workers, declared his union would keep its organizing campaign going at full blast until every garment worker in the South joined the union.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IN 1940 HELD INVALID AN ALABAMA ANTI-PICKETING LAW AND A SIMILAR ORDINANCE OF CALIFORNIA'S SHASTA COUNTY. THE DECISIONS WERE BASED ON THE GROUND THAT THE PROHIBITION OF PEACEFUL PICKETING VIOLATED THE 14TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.



OF THE 16,000 MOTHERS WHO DIE ANNUALLY IN CHILDBIRTH, OVER 90% MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. CHILDREN'S BUREAU. ONE CAUSE OF THIS HIGH MORTALITY IS THAT MOTHERS ARE OFTEN COMPELLED TO WORK WHILE PREGNANT.

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