

Elect your delegates to the North Carolina Federation of Labor meeting at once, if you have not already done so. You are an important arm of the State body and matters of great importance are to come up to be discussed and disposed of at the August meeting in High Point.

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

## AND CAROLINA

# JOURNAL of LABOR

Unionists, Do Everything Within Your Power To Aid In the Southern A. F. L. Membership Drive

Working For A Better Understanding Between North Carolina AFL Unions and Employers of Labor



"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."—Samuel Gompers.

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## Senate Gives Green Light To Skyrocketing Prices

### TRUMAN SIGNS HOBBS BILL AFTER CLARK ASSURES HIM LABOR'S RIGHTS ARE SAFE

Washington, D. C. — President Truman signed the Hobbs Bill, imposing penalties on labor unions or officials interfering with goods in interstate commerce, but only after assurance by U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark that the legislation could not be construed as interfering with labor's basic rights as guaranteed by other laws.

In a formal message to Congress, the President declared he signed the measure upon the assurance of the Attorney General that it could not be interpreted "to deprive labor of any of its recognized rights, including the right to strike, picket and take other peaceful, concerted action."

Thus, by this unusual step of placing before Congress his and the Attorney General's construction of the new law, he made his interpretation of the measure part of its legislative record to guard against any misunderstanding of its scope by any court.

Labor leaders who had urged veto of the bill were inspired by grave fear that its wording might be construed as outlawing strikes and picketing.

The President emphasized that he was assured by the Attorney General that nothing in the bill would "repeal, modify or affect" provisions of protective pieces of labor legislation such as the Railway Labor Act, the Norris-La Guardia Act, the Wagner Act and some sections of the Clayton Act.

These measures were described by the President as "the great legislative safeguards which the Congress has established for the protection of labor in the exercise of its fundamental rights."

Mr. Truman made it clear that when he vetoed the Case Bill June

11, he expressed "full accord" with Section 7 of that measure, which contained the provisions of the Hobbs Bill.

"Section 11 of the Case Bill," he added, "seriously weakened the protection afforded to labor by the Norris-La Guardia Act, and correspondingly crippled the exceptions contained in Section 7 of the Case Bill. The present act, standing alone, is not subject to this objection."

Attorney General Clark issued a statement declaring that the bill as a whole must be construed "in the light of interpretative statements made during the Congressional debate on the measure" which he said, made it evident it was not the purpose of the bill to interfere with legitimate union activity.

Among statements cited to bear out his interpretation, the Attorney General cited one by Rep. Hobbs (D.) Alabama, author of the bill, who stated the measure "exempts from the operation of the law any conduct under the anti-trust statutes, under the Norris-La Guardia Act, the NLRB Act and the Railway Labor Act," the so-called Big Four that have been termed the Magna Carta of Labor.

"On this understanding," the President declared in his message to Congress, "I am approving the bill."

The measure makes it a felony carrying a fine up to \$10,000 or up to 20 years in prison, or both, for illegal interference with goods in interstate commerce.

Meanwhile, in New York City, a test case challenging the constitutionality of the new law, was predicted by the attorney for New York Local 807 of the International Teamsters (AFL).

### North Carolina Firemen Close Successful Charlotte Meeting

#### ADDRESSES FIREMEN



J. J. Thomas

### Says U. S. Must Keep Controls

Washington, D. C.—Grave warning that the Nation "stands at the crossroads" and must choose between disastrous inflation on the one hand or, on the other, a program of reduced Federal spending, a strong OPA, high taxes, a balanced budget and continued credit controls was served on President Truman and Congress by John R. Steelman, director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

In a quarterly report on the country's progress toward reconversion, Mr. Steelman said that expenditures for the armed forces, covering nearly half of the Federal budget, "must be re-examined in the light of the present need for anti-inflationary action."

Possibility of economies in the Federal agencies were minimized by Mr. Steelman, who said they accounted for only 6 per cent of the costs.

Commenting later on the Steelman report at a news conference, President Truman pledged his Administration to a reduction in Federal spending and declared that programs for the military and the veterans would be reviewed "to determine where they can be reduced without endangering national security or causing unjustified hardships."

Both Mr. Truman and Mr. Steelman hailed the great strides which the country had taken toward production. Both were insistent upon controls to check the danger of runaway prices.

President Truman issued a special statement on his reconversion director's report and made a point during the news conference of reading some of its highlights.

"The President's statement said in part:

"Up to June 30 the setbacks which we suffered had been disproportionately magnified.

"The facts are that production by midyear reached the highest level ever attained in peacetime.

"More people are working now than ever before—4,500,000 more than in 1941, our highest prewar year. Particularly gratifying is the fact that eight out of every ten returned veterans already have jobs; but we shall not be satisfied until the rest of our veterans have suitable employment opportunities.

"The number of people looking for work was only slightly above 2.

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State Fire Fighters of North Carolina closed its Seventh annual convention July 11 with one of the greatest meetings ever held by the organization. Delegates came from their respective cities loaded with enthusiasm for what they had accomplished during the past year. One new local, at Asheville, N. C., affiliated with the association during the year.

President John P. Redmond of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Washington, D. C., gave an inspired address on various phases of fire fighting and what firemen are accomplishing throughout the United States by affiliating with the I.A.F.F. Fire Marshall of North Carolina Sherwood Brockwell spoke on how to keep youth in the Fire Departments over the state. Youth means better protection of life and property. It can be done by setting up an adequate pension plan whereby firemen may retire after 25 years of service.

Clarence O. Kuester of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, gave the delegates some very interesting information on the growth of Charlotte in the last fifty years. He also spoke on how various modern machines had taken the place of labor and if we are to keep pace with modern times and supply full employment for all, we must cut down the working hours of the week to 40 and if necessary to 30 hours.

President Redmond was called back to Washington and Brother J. J. Thomas installed the new officers. Officers for the coming year are: President, J. B. Keeter of Raleigh; secretary-treasurer, H. E. Blackmon, Charlotte; first vice president, Joseph Hall, Asheville; second vice president, W. E. Cox, Winston-Salem; and third vice president W. H. Copley, Durham.

This group of officers form the executive committee which was authorized to carry out the wishes of the convention. The committee will conduct a study of occupational diseases of the fire fighting profession, adequate pension plans, civil service for all paid firemen in the state of North Carolina, and will increase activity on behalf of the I.A.F.F. and the A.F. of L. There is a goal of several new locals by next convention time.

In his address to the delegates assembled in the Hotel Charlotte, Mr. J. J. Thomas, president of Local 660 I.A.F.F., Charlotte, stated "If the A.F. of L. accomplishes its plans in the future we will live on in prosperity. If it fails we will suffer in poverty."

### People Pay And Pay Without Price Control

Washington, D. C.—The Senate voted to outlaw any future OPA price ceilings on meat, poultry, eggs, food made from these products, and on milk, butter, gasoline and oil.

Here are the results, as learned the hard way by a stunned Nation:

MEAT—Cattle prices break all records in the 81-year history of Chicago livestock market. Beef cattle sell for \$23 per 100 pounds, hogs climb to 50 cents above previous high figure to \$17.75, or \$4.90 above the OPA ceiling. Market observers said they expected beef would go above \$30.

STEAK—In the Nation's capital, steak sells for prices ranging from \$1.10 to \$1.85 a pound, depending upon the grade and the decision of the butcher.

HAMBURGER—Selling at 78 cents to \$1 a pound.

LAMB—In Chicago market from \$20 to 20.50 in one day.

PORK CHOPS—Upped to 94 cents a pound.

RIB ROAST—Reported available at \$1.25 a pound.

BACON—Selling at prices ranging from 75 to 98 cents a pound.

MILK—Selling at 22 cents a quart in some areas, with indications of further increases.

ICE CREAM—Expected to follow milk price jump.

RENTS—Up anywhere from 30 to 300 per cent in areas where no state or local controls are in effect.

COTTON—Increase of \$5 a bale in single day, to daily limit.

WHEAT—Jumps 17 cents a bushel in day.

SHOES—Leather up 20 to 30 per cent above OPA ceilings, shoe manufacturers' prices up 8 and 9 per cent with prospect of further jumps.

OPA economists, after a careful study of the swift spiraling of prices, predicted retail beef prices will jump 50 per cent and pork will increase 30 per cent.

The headlong gain in cattle prices, reflecting the Senate's action in voting down the restoration of meat price ceilings, was just a beginning, according to the livestock traders, who said prices might go soon to \$30. The Associated Press quoted a Chicago trader as saying: "There is nothing in sight to stop it. These current high receipts will peter out before long. Mostly they're stock which has been held back for the last couple of months in expectation of higher prices. When they're gone—hang onto your hats!"

A report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on wholesale prices of 28 basic commodities went up another point, to 233, of 17 per cent above the June 28 figure. Its primary market prices on 900 commodities went up 4 per cent in a week, the most rapid rise since September, 1939.

Dun & Bradstreet's index of 30 basic commodities rose to its highest point since the computation was begun in 1932.

OPA officials' analysis of the meat situation took this form:

Average prices of hogs on the hoof are up 15 per cent and those of beef cattle are up 22 to 25 per cent. If packers and retailers increased their prices only by the increases in cattle prices—that is, if they did not expand their mark-ups—the average price of pork would go up about 4 1-2 cents a pound and beef at retail would be 8 cents a pound higher. This would be an increase of about 13 per cent for pork and 25 per cent for beef.

But these prices do not include offsets to the subsidy payments formerly going to packers and processors. To compensate for this loss, the retail price would have to rise another 15 per cent.

### BAN ON CONTROLS OVER MEAT, MILK, EGGS, AND POULTRY

Washington, D. C. — Completely disregarding the interests of consumers throughout the Nation, the Senate deliberately outlawed price ceilings on food vital to every American family.

Bowing to demands of special interests, it voted to remove from OPA control meat, poultry, eggs, milk (its food and feed products including butter and cheese), cottonseed, soybeans and petroleum.

As the emasculated bill was approaching its final form, there was strong indication that this, like the previous measure, was heading straight for a Presidential veto.

Only by the narrowest of margins, a 40-40 tie vote, did the Senate reject the Taft amendment, aimed to strip OPA of discretionary powers and force it to guarantee manufacturers' profits plus costs. This was one of President Truman's chief objections to the original bill he vetoed.

The tie vote came following a most unusual procedure when Majority Leader Barkley recessed the Senate night session for two hours at the cocktail hour to permit the members to attend a party given by Senator Guffey (D.), Penn., for Senator Radcliffe (D. Md.), who was defeated for renomination. Nearly every member of the Senate attended the party.

The amendment to exempt cottonseed, soy beans and their products, including butter and lard substitutes, was fathered by Senator Eastland of Mississippi, and was approved, 42 to 34.

The petroleum exemption amendment was presented by Senator Moore of Oklahoma. Approved by a vote of 40 to 30, it specifies that ceilings could not be reinstated in petroleum or any of its products unless the price de-control board, which would be set up by the bill, certified the item to be short in supply. Since the OPA concedes that the petroleum supply equals the demand, little likelihood was seen that this condition would occur.

An effort by Senate leaders to hasten final action on the bill coincided with a statement by President Truman that every day of delay increased the danger of inflation.

The President, whose veto on June 29 of an amendment-laden price control extension bill was a factor in the OPA's expiration the following day, declined to say whether he would sign a new measure carrying the additional amendments already approved by the Senate. Instead he authorized the following quotation:

"Certainly, up to this point runaway inflation has been prevented, but, as the seventh report of the Reconversion Director points out, all of the ground we have so laboriously won against inflation will be irretrievably lost without a workable price control law. Every day that passes without a law on the books increases that danger."

**WAGNER HOUSING BILL ESSENTIAL, WYATT SAYS**

Washington, D. C.—Passage of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing bill, approved by the Senate in May, is absolutely essential to attainment of the goals set for the Veterans' Emergency Housing program, Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt told the House banking and currency committee.

### AFL BUILDING TRADES DEPT. SIGNS AGREEMENT TO AID HOUSING PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—Marking a long step toward insuring uninterrupted development of the Government's vast emergency home-building program, the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt signifying agreement "to use every means within its power to bring about a settlement of any industrial conflict" that may or may not threaten a stoppage of work.

Signatories to the agreement for the AFL were R. J. Gray, acting chairman of the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department, and Herbert Rivers, secretary-treasurer. Wyatt and his chief general deputy, Kirby Smith, signed for the Government.

Under the agreement, a Construction Labor Advisory Committee was created by the AFL group. It is composed of Mr. Gray, secretary-treasurer, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers; President William Maloney, International Union of Operating Engineers; President Robert Byron, International Sheet Metal Workers; President Edward Brown, International Electrical Workers, and General Organizer Thomas O'Brien, International Teamsters.

The memorandum said in part: "The Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated Building and Construction Trades Councils throughout the Nation are prepared to provide the maximum degree of co-operation to the National Housing Expediter in furthering Housing Program. National and International Unions in the Building and Con-

struction Trades are prepared to render their best services nationally, regionally, and locally in meeting the housing emergency by getting the job of building homes done well and done with speed.

"In order to make their co-operation with the Housing Expediter effective in all phases of the program, it is the desire of the Building Trades Department to establish a working relationship with his office which would make it possible to resolve after full consideration such operating problems may arise; would enable the Building Trades representatives to provide the Housing Expediter with such advice and assistance as he and his staff may need; and would assure the ready flow of information to the Building Trades regarding the policies and operating procedures formulated in the administration of the program."

**An Editorial**

In order that our readers and advertisers may be given a greater service The Charlotte Labor Journal announces in this week's issue its change in name. Henceforth this newspaper will be known as the Charlotte Labor Journal and Carolina Journal of Labor.

Although for a long time The Journal has been serving a large number of readers outside of Charlotte, and the State, the publisher is endeavoring to co-operate with the Southern Membership drive of the AFL and intends giving both readers and advertisers an even greater out-of-town coverage.

H. A. Stalls, Publisher.

### Labor and Management Profit By Bargaining

New York City.—Following is a reproduction, in part, of an article written by Thomas S. Holden, president of the F. W. Dodge Corp., and published in the "Architectural Record" clearly demonstrating how both labor and management can and do benefit by "Collective Bargaining at Work."

By THOMAS S. HOLDEN.

Industrial peace and sound employer-employee relationships in New York's building industry during the next five years are the objects of the master agreement recently consummated by the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York City and the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and Long Island.

Hailed by George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, who signed the document as a witness, as "a real triumph for the American system of collective bargaining," the agreement resulted from many months of discussion and negotiation by a 14-man joint committee of the two organizations. It was ratified by 23 constituent member associations of the BTEA and 26 constituent unions of the Council.

Arrival at this result through established bargaining procedures was no mean achievement in a period of nation-wide labor unrest, when one great American industry after another was beset by excessive wage demands, strikes and work stoppages. As Mr. Meany said, there was no coercion or threat in the New York building industry, no policeman or political party involved in bringing labor and management together.

Influence of the master agreement has already spread from building into heavy engineering construction activity in New York City. It was largely followed as a pattern for the recent pact between the Heavy Construction Council and the General Contractors Association, the organizations representing respectively the unions and the employers engaged primarily in heavy engineering work. It has been reported that New York's master agreement is being actively studied and discussed in a number of other cities with a view to working out similar arrangements.

The agreement outlaws strikes and lockouts, establishes wage increases in accordance with the Little Steel formula, standardizes the workday as seven hours and the work week as five days, strengthens existing machinery for arbitration of jurisdictional and other disputes, sets up a permanent industry board with the function of regulation of the industry and general enforcement of the master agreement.

### Green Assails Labor Enemies

Chicago. — Anti-union forces in national and state legislative bodies were assailed by AFL President William Green in an address before the 23rd International convention of the Firemen and Oilers here. He hailed particularly as a triumph for labor the recent veto by Gov. Davis of Louisiana of a bill to outlaw closed shops in the state.

Declaring that the AFL would never join hands with Communists, Mr. Green called upon the union for the greatest possible unity in guarding against infiltration of those who would attempt to destroy organized labor from within.

Impressive gains in membership and great strides in the improvement of the members were revealed

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