

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 Durham.

# 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

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.



"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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## N. C. Federation Meeting Changed To Durham

### MASS MEETING OF CHARLOTTE LABOR

A large mass meeting of all Charlotte AFL unions has been called for Sunday, August 25, by a committee of the Charlotte Central Labor Union, headed by Sterling Hicks, president. Tentative plans were made at a meeting of the master committee on arrangements at a meeting held at the Labor Temple on North Tryon street Thursday.

This meeting of the local labor unions will be held to promulgate plans of co-operation with the Southern membership drive of the American Federation of Labor and Southern Director George Googe has indicated that he will be here to attend the meeting, if his busy calendar will permit. Officials of the North Carolina Federation of Labor will also be here, as will also officials of the various Central Labor Unions and their affiliates in the AFL from cities and towns in the surrounding territory, all of whom are being issued urgent invitations to attend.

The Central Labor Union committee has named the presidents and secretaries of all local affiliated and non-affiliated AFL unions to be a part of the master committee on arrangements and President Hicks will issue another call for a meeting of this committee as a whole early next week.

According to plans of the Central Labor Union committee the meeting is to be held in the Mecklenburg County Superior Court room, which will accommodate several hundred people. The local meeting is expected to be one of the largest and most enthusiastic labor gatherings held in the history of local labor. Also policies and plans to be devised at this meeting are expected to expedite Charlotte Labor's march forward in the weeks and months just ahead.

The members of the Central Labor Union committee who met Thursday were: Sterling Hicks, president, Claude Nolan, R. L. Stitt, Dan Anderson, E. A. Tarver and H. A. Stalls. Another committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday.

### Living Cost Up 25 Per Cent In 16 Days Of No OPA

Washington, D. C.—Living costs in the United States rose 25 per cent in the first 16 days after collapse of the OPA, it was revealed in a report prepared by the Commerce Department and made public by the White House.

The increase in all but a handful of basic commodities amounted to 35 per cent, by the Government's own interpretation of the report.

If it had not been for the fact that business groups working for the removal of all price controls extended themselves to hold prices down to a minimum rise while Congress was still debating the fate of OPA, hoping thereby to prove their point that price controls no longer were necessary, living costs would have gone still higher, in the opinion of the department.

As a result of the recent price spurt, the department said prices increased at a much faster rate since the Japanese surrender than they did during a comparable period after World War I, when the country was experiencing "serious inflation."

The official appraisal of the price situation was based on the behavior of the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of daily spot market prices for 28 basic commodities—the usual basis of living-cost studies—during the first 16 days of July.

It was pointed out that among these commodities were six which showed no price change—four because of other government controls and two because of a market standstill due to economic uncertainties.

Eliminating these six commodities, it was noted, the price rise for the first 16 days of July stood at almost 35 per cent, rather than the 25 per cent indicated for all 28 commodities.

Farm products, foods and imported goods lead in the upward price trend, the report showed. The largest percentage rise was in the price of silk, which had gone up (Please Turn to Page 4)

### 128,000 Jobless In Philadelphia Labor Market

Philadelphia. — Unemployed in the Philadelphia labor market now number 128,000, it was revealed in a report by labor experts after a survey.

This is the largest number of unemployed since the end of the war, they said, but the real peak is several weeks off. By the end of September, the report said, unemployment will begin to drop sharply as a result of the increased production of many now scarce supplies and commodities.

Even though unemployment has reached its highest point since 1940 those familiar with labor conditions and industrial production see nothing alarming in the situation.

They say it's remarkable that peacetime production should already have absorbed such a large number of war workers—especially since various shortages and other problems have delayed industrial reconversion.

Philadelphia's men's suit industry has plenty of cloth but is plagued by a shortage of workers. This was disclosed by a spokesman for that industry here. Philadelphia is the second largest suit-manufacturing center in the country.

Suit manufacturers here could use at least 4,000 more workers, of whom at least half should be hand tailors and machine operators, according to William B. Flickstein, secretary of the Philadelphia Clothing Manufacturers' Association. But the workers simply cannot be found, despite a campaign to recruit them.

Men's suits will therefore continue to be scarce for some time. For the same shortage of workers also exists in the nation's four other great manufacturing centers for men's clothing — New York, Baltimore, Chicago and Rochester, N. Y.

### RENTS CLIMB AND CLIMB

Chicago.—Rent increases in this city, as reported by tenants since OPA ceilings went off July 1, have reached an average of 80 per cent above OPA tops, an official of the Tenants League revealed. More than 4,500 tenants have filed formal complaints, and in a single day one municipal court was the scene of 150 eviction hearings.

### A. F. OF L. MAN HELPS RED CROSS



Munich, Germany—A vital link between Third Army occupation soldiers and their homes in the States, Pvt. Carmel "Joe" Southard, Dixon, Ill., member of the Red Carriers and Building Labor Union—A. F. of L., is on detached service to the American Red Cross, delivering emergency messages and reports by courier jeep. He carries good and bad news from Munich to Army headquarters and to Red Cross field directors with units in isolated parts of Bavaria.

### George Googe Visits AFL Charlotte Office

George L. Googe, Southern director of the American Federation of Labor organizing campaign, was a visitor in Charlotte Tuesday of this week and spent several hours at the Labor Temple conferring with Earl R. Britton, campaign director for the two Carolinas.

Mr. Googe left in the afternoon for Greenville, S. C., where he was scheduled to meet with labor officials in that city in connection with the current membership campaign.

Mr. Googe expects to return to Charlotte at an early date to confer with the Charlotte officials and also be present at the general labor mass meeting which has been called for August 25 in this city. He will deliver one of the main addresses. Efforts are being made to have several noted labor speakers present to address the gathering.

From Greenville Mr. Googe expected to return to Atlanta and from there he will proceed to Birmingham, Ala., where he has called a meeting of the Southern Advisory committee for August 5-6. He is chairman of the advisory committee, which is composed of State Federations of Labor and Central Labor Union officials from all sections of the South.

Southern Director Googe reports that the South-wide drive is progressing satisfactorily up to date, and that hundreds of new members are being enrolled all over Dixie during the initial stages of the membership campaign.

The mass meeting called for August 25th in Charlotte will be held in connection with the AFL activities in Charlotte and surrounding territory.

MEETING PLACE CHANGED DUE TO INABILITY TO SECURE MEETING HALL SUFFICIENTLY LARGE TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE CROWD EXPECTED TO ATTEND MEETING.

Announcement was made Tuesday by President C. A. Fink of the North Carolina Federation of Labor that the August 12 convention of the State Federation will be held in Durham instead of High Point. The change in meeting place was brought about due to the inability of the High Point entertainment committee to find an auditorium in High Point sufficiently large to accommodate the large gathering that officials expect to convene for this year's meeting.

### PRESIDENT FINK VISITS CHARLOTTE

President Fink was a visitor to Charlotte Tuesday of this week conferring with Southern Director George Googe and local labor officials relative to both the State Federation meeting and the Southern membership campaign of the AFL which is now getting into full swing throughout Dixie. Mr. Fink stated that he expects one of the largest gatherings of delegates and visitors and labor officials at the Durham meeting in the history of the North Carolina Federation of Labor. The sessions will be held at the Washington Duke hotel, which will be official headquarters.

According to announcements all sections of the State will be represented and Charlotte is to have full quotas of delegates on hand.

### 'Bogey-Man' Of Labor Hit In Metal Trades Bulletin

#### MOBILE TEAMSTERS WIN ELECTION

Mobile, Ala.—Employees of the Haas Davis Packing Company of Mobile, who last week elected the American Federation of Labor to act as their bargaining agency, have met and drawn up a contract for wages, hours and working conditions. The contract has been submitted to management and negotiations will begin immediately by Teamsters and Chauffeurs Local No. 991 and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers.

#### MASSACHUSETTS' JOBLESS AT PEAK OF PAY FOR IDLE

Boston.—The Massachusetts Division of Employment Security reports that the payment of \$58,404,856 in the first six months of this year, is an all-time high in unemployment benefits. Approximately 62 per cent, or \$35,917,531 of the total, went to war veterans as readjustment allowances, and the remaining 38 per cent constituted a new civilian peak.

The high point for veterans was reached in March when \$1,219 checks, totaling \$1,619,049, were paid and peak benefits to civilians were reached in May when 52,984 checks, totaling \$1,098,956, were distributed in a week.

Washington, D. C.—Emphatic protest against efforts of anti-labor legislators, in both national and state groups, to crucify American organized labor on the altar of "Big Business" by raising a "Bogey-Man" as expressed in the latest issue of the Bulletin published by the Metal Trades Department of the AFL.

In a bristling reply to the so-called "Big Business" spokesmen who have been screaming about "Big Labor's" strikes and requests for wage increases to meet skyrocketing living costs, the Bulletin assailed members of Congress and state legislators who have brushed aside labor's pleas to concentrate on greater wealth for giant corporations.

In blunt language it declared: "The anti-labor spokesmen have their axes sharpened, and are ready to chop down any and every gain made by labor. Let there be no mistake about it, these anti-labor forces will try to destroy or make ineffective every gain made by labor. To them, the time is now here. This is the time for attacks on labor. They may use all sorts of honeyed words about their undying belief in collective bargaining and trade unionism, but they are anti-labor in their hearts, let's make no mistake about it. It is their deeds, not their hypocritical words, which count. And their deeds are clearly and unmistakably anti-labor."

"Never do these anti-labor propagandists, however, refer to the well-known machinations of Big Business, which have been responsible for the shortages of those things which have become essential to the American standard of living. Never do they refer to the sabotage of production, the withholding of goods which are kept in warehouses, the holding back of goods, to compel price increases, at the expense of labor and the consumer. They go out of their way to make it appear that it is solely labor's fault that there are shortages."

"If the truth were told, the responsibility of labor for holding up production reconverted to peacetime needs, is absolutely insignificant, compared with the deliberate, planned and determined efforts of Big Business in refusing to produce, until they got the laws, written as they wished, before the war, and the cash terms they demand now, during the post-war reconversion. The lockouts of labor and the strikes by labor far into the shade, in causing actual shortages of (Please Turn to Page 4)

## Policy Committee To Meet In Birmingham

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 1.—Chairman George L. Googe of the Southern Campaign, American Federation of Labor, has issued a call for a meeting of the Policy Board, the governing authority of the Campaign, for Monday and Tuesday, August 5th and 6th at Birmingham, Alabama. The Board will meet at the Bankhead Hotel.

This meeting will be a working session to implement the plans and programs of the International unions and the State Federations of Labor and the A.F. of L. itself. The Policy Board is made up of 45 leaders in the American Federation of Labor throughout the South.

The American Federation of Labor has strong, effective, and established labor union machinery in every state in the South. These State Federations of Labor in the fourteen states included in the A. F. of L. drive represent in their membership 200 City Federations of Labor, eight thousand local unions and an individual membership



GEORGE L. GOOGE Southern Campaign Director

of nearly two million. The American Federation of Labor is building its Southern Campaign around this well-knit organizational structure.

The Birmingham meeting will review the effectiveness of the coordination of its far-flung structure and make plans for further acceleration of the program as it gathers momentum toward its objective of a fifty per cent membership gain.

All of the one hundred and six National and International Unions which make up the American Federation of Labor have locals and memberships throughout the South. These International and National Unions maintain organizers, representatives and officers in the southern territory at all times. There are 400 of these agents or representatives currently stationed in the South. The greatest volume of A.F. of L. organizational work in its Southern Campaign will be carried on by this corps of experienced representatives, all of whom have come from the ranks of Southern unions and of Southern industry.

The State Federations of Labor will have direct responsibility for extending the A.F. of L. program



EARLE R. BRITTON Carolinas Campaign Director

within their respective states, co-operating with the organization projects of the National and International Unions. Each state will direct the activities of its own organizing staff. In the 200 cities in the South where the A.F. of L. has

city labor federations the area responsibility for organization work will be assumed by these City Federations.

The entire organization structure, long established, well-imit, made up of life-long citizens and wage earners of the communities of the South heads up to the Policy Board on which is represented officials of the National and International Unions by occupational groupings and the ranking officials of all the 14 State Federations of Labor.

George Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, is chairman of the Policy Board and the official representative of all co-ordinated A.F. of L. interests in the campaign. Mr. Googe supervises and deploys the 70 organizers employed directly by the A.F. of L.

This backlog of organized A.F. of L. structure, experience and man-power is supplemented by some 2,000 local union officials and business agents employed locally (Please Turn to Page 4)