

AFL LABOR RALLY IN CHARLOTTE AUGUST 25

AFL Council To Map Campaign For Election Of Better Congress

MANY MATTERS FACING PRE-CONVENTION SESSION SLATED FOR CHICAGO.

Chicago.—Intensification of the AFL's political activities in the coming Congressional campaign will be one of the top subjects on the agenda of the mid-summer meeting of the Executive Council which opens here August 12.

Concerned over the many failures of the 79th Congress to approve measures on the "must" list of organized labor, and disturbed by repeated Congressional attacks on labor's basic freedoms, the leaders of the American Federation of Labor are determined to mobilize the full strength of the Federation's seven million members this Fall to elect a law-making body more responsive to the people's needs.

It was emphasized, however, that despite garbled newspaper reports, the AFL does not contemplate setting up a "political action committee."

Following its traditional non-partisan political course, the Federation is expected to concentrate its efforts on getting out the labor vote in favor of candidates who have been endorsed on the basis of their voting records.

Other important and current matters to be decided by the Executive Council include:

- 1—Formulation of a domestic program to prevent inflation and guard against a future depression.
- 2—Recommendation of policies to further the cause of world peace.
- 3—Establishment of a Maritime Council in the AFL composed of unions active in the shipping industry.
- 4—Furtherance of organizing campaigns, especially the Southern drive.
- 5—Determination of policy with regard to AFL representation in the International Labor Organization.

Besides these pressing issues, the Executive Council will be required to prepare a two-year report to the forthcoming 65th national convention of the American Federation of Labor, which is scheduled to open in this city October 7. The Executive Council did not prepare a report for 1945 last year because the convention had to be cancelled due to wartime travel restrictions.

The sorry record of the 79th Congress on domestic issues will be reviewed in detail by the Executive Council. Most disappointing to labor were the failure of Congress to adopt effective price control legislation and its surrender to lobbyist pressure against the Wagner-Elender-Taft long-range housing bill.

Other serious mistakes by Congress included failure to improve the unemployment insurance system, refusal to lift the national minimum wage level, and complete inaction on legislation to broaden social security and to inaugurate Federal health insurance.

IATSE RE-ELECTS WALSH AND HIS ENTIRE SLATE

Chicago — Richard E. Walsh, president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), and his entire slate were re-elected at the annual convention of the union here. Walsh was given 649 votes to 426 for William Bennett of Washington.

Green Offers Three-Point Program To Protect Labor In Shift Of USES

Washington, D. C.—A three-point program for State Federations of Labor to guard against abuses of State Employment agencies and insure a maximum of protection for labor when control of USES returns to the States November 15 was issued by AFL President William Green.

Pointing out that Congress voted for return to State control over the vigorous opposition of the AFL, Mr. Green announced he is working with headquarters of the USES on development of national standards to safeguard labor's interests. However, he warned:

"To minimize the dangers to labor involved in the return of the USES to State operation, there is much that the State Federations themselves can do. We will communicate with you from time to time with respect to this matter. In the meantime, it is recommended:

- "1. That the Employment Service be removed from the direct control of the State Unemployment Compensation Agency and be given equivalent and independent status. This has already been accomplished in Kentucky where the State Legislature enacted a bill to establish a separate Employment Service Agency within the State Department of Labor. In Kentucky the Employment Service is now on a par with the Unemployment Com-

pensation Agency within the Department of Labor.

"In the following States where the Unemployment Compensation Agency is also located within the State Department of Labor or the Industrial Commission, similar legislation should be sought to provide for the establishment of the Employment Service as a separate division, independent of the Unemployment Compensation Agency, where this is not now provided by law:

Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin.

- "2. That both the Unemployment Compensation and Employment Service programs be administered within the State Departments of Labor or Industrial Commissions. It is recognized that in some States the Labor Departments or Industrial Commissions are far from adequate and in some cases do not reflect a proper labor point of view. Nevertheless, it would appear to be advantageous in most instances to have these programs administered by the State Labor Departments or Industrial Commissions, particularly where the employers dominate the administration of the present Unemployment Compensation Commissions.

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Carpenters To Install Auxiliary

Charlotte Carpenters Local Union No. 1469 announced this week that a meeting will be held in Labor Temple, 317 1/2 North Tryon street, next Tuesday night, August 26, for the purpose of installing Ladies Auxiliary 457 to the Carpenters Union. A nice program has been arranged and refreshments will be served at this meeting.

Invitations to the installation exercises are being mailed out this week and read as follows:

"You are invited to attend a special call meeting of Carpenter's Local Union 1469, Tuesday, August 26, 1946, at the Labor Temple, 317 1/2 N. Tryon street, Charlotte, N. C., for the purpose of installing the Charter of the Ladies Auxiliary, L.U. 457.

"Fraternally,
"JOHN LOVETT,
"Recording Secretary, L.U. 1469.
"N.B.: Refreshments will be served."

Unable To Participate In Meeting

In answer to a recent invitation extended to him by Earle R. Britton, Carolinas membership campaign director of the AFL, George M. Harrison, grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, has written Mr. Britton that he will be unable to attend and address the meeting here Sunday due to a previous engagement. It had been hoped by all members of organized labor here that Mr. Harrison would be able to attend the mass meeting. His letter to Director Britton follows:

"Chicago, Ill.

"Mr. Earle R. Britton, Chairman, "A.F. of L. Organizing Committee, "Central Labor Union, "Charlotte, N. C.

"Dear Sir and Brother:

"Your telegram of August 10 was forwarded to me. I regret very much that I am unable to speak at your meeting in Charlotte, N. C., August 25. I have a previous engagement which necessitates my being in Dallas, Texas, about that time and it will be impossible for me to attend both meetings. I am sorry that I cannot comply with your request. Thank you for the invitation.

"Sincerely and fraternally,
"GEORGE M. HARRISON,
"Grand President."

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

Washington, D. C.—By the end of May of this year, there were 639,373 women employed full-time by the executive branch of the Federal Government in July 1944,ington area alone these employees numbered 116,476. These figures are comparable to an all-high of 1,086,397 women employed by the Federal Government in July 1944, and with 186,210 in June, 1940.

1,408 DISPUTES SETTLED

Washington, D. C.—Conciliation Service settled 1,408 labor-management disputes in June, 1,095 before reaching the strike stage.

Charlotte Printers Attending ITU Convention In Miami

Charlotte Typographical Union No. 338 is being well represented at the annual convention of the International Typographical Union in Miami this week.

John P. White and W. M. Bostick are attending as delegates from the Charlotte Union, and Howard L. Beatty and Hugh M. Sykes are attending as alternates and visitors. Messrs. White and Bostick were accompanied to Miami by their wives who are attending the annual convention of the ITU Women's Auxiliary, which is held each year in conjunction with the Typographical Union convention.

Mesdames Hugh M. Sykes and Howard L. Beatty also accompanied their husbands to the Florida resort city. Mr. and Mrs. Beatty were accompanied by their two charming daughters. A card received from Brother Beatty states that the Charlotte delegation is enjoying the convention immensely and also that the sights of the Magic City are not going by "unnoticed." They expect to return to Charlotte Sunday, as the convention will most likely close Friday or Saturday.

The session this year is the second to be held in several years, due to war restrictions on hotel and travel accommodations. This year's convention was originally scheduled for Charlotte, but at the last minute the local committee on arrangements was informed that hotel accommodations could not be had to care for the some 1,500 delegates and visitors expected to attend. Hence the international executive committee named Miami as the place of meeting.

President Hicks To Visit West

Sterling L. Hicks, president of the Charlotte Central Labor Union, also president and business representative of the Radio Engineers Local Union No. 1229 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, will attend the Twenty-second convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in San Francisco, which opens September 1.

Those making the trip with Mr. Hicks will be his wife, and his sister, Mrs. L. H. Partain, who will join the party in Birmingham, Ala.

Their itinerary includes visits to the following cities: El Paso, Texas, with a short trip into Mexico, the City of Juarez, one day in Los Angeles, then to San Francisco for two weeks. On the return trip the party will visit the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City and then spend a day in Colorado Springs, making a trip to Pikes Peak, arriving home around the last of September.

Meeting Begins At 2 P. M. In Mecklenburg Court House OPENS ORGANIZATION DRIVE George Googe, Earle Britton and President Fink On Speakers List

Tentative Program For Rally

The following tentative program has been worked out for the AFL mass meeting Sunday, August 25, at 2 p.m. to be held in the Criminal Court Room at the Mecklenburg County Court House:

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| Chairman | Sterling L. Hicks |
| President, Central Labor Union | |
| Invocation | Dr. A. H. Wilson |
| Pastor, First Christian Church | |
| Music | |
| Address of Welcome | C. A. Fink |
| President, N. C. Federation of Labor | |
| Address and Introduction of Speakers | Earle R. Britton |
| Director of Organization for North and South Carolina | |
| Address | James F. Barrett |
| Public Relations Director, AFL Southern Office | |
| Address | "Doc" Garland |
| A.F. of L. Representative | |
| Address | George L. Googe |
| Southern AFL Director and Co-ordinator of Campaign | |

Editor's Note: This program may be supplemented as pertains to the speakers. William Green has been invited to attend and also several other prominent national labor men have been asked to address the meeting. No doubt many of the international unions will be represented here by their organizers or representatives and if so their names will appear on the official program to be given out at the meeting.

I.B.E.W. To Machinists Have Fish Sign New Fry Dinner Contracts

The following invitations are being issued this week to members and friends by Local Union No. B-379, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers:

"Charlotte, N. C.
"August 22, 1946

"You and your family are cordially invited to a fish fry given by Local B-379, I.B.E.W. at Bryant Park, Thursday, August 29 at 7:30 p.m. Please let us know by attached return card of your acceptance and how many you will bring.

"Local Union B-379,
"R. L. Stitt, B.M."

Two agreements have been signed between Local No. 263, International Machinists Union, and two Charlotte machine shops. One of these was consummated several weeks ago between the Charlotte Union and the Whitin Machine Works, according to an announcement made by Recording Secretary W. B. Wallace, while the other was recently closed between Local No. 263 and the Terrell Machine Company.

International Representative F. T. Cornelius and the local committee negotiated the Whitin contract, while International Representative W. L. Grant and the local negotiating committee negotiated the agreement with the Terrell company.

The contracts call for increases in wages, paid vacations and a 5c hourly differential in pay between day and night work.

WINE AND LIQUOR UNION TO CONVE IN MONTREAL

Montreal—Members of the Wine, Liquor and Distillery Workers' International Union will open their annual convention here September 17.

The convention this year faces a number of major issues, including a steadily increasing drive by dries in the United States, for a return to prohibition, the problem presented by the steady shrinkage of grain and new restrictions on distilling.

BY H. A. STALLS, Editor
Charlotte Journal of Labor

Arrangements have about been completed for the Charlotte American Federation of Labor mass meeting to be held next Sunday, August 25, at 2 p.m. in the Criminal Court Room of the Mecklenburg County courthouse, according to announcement made by Sterling L. Hicks, president of Charlotte Central Labor Union, who is also general chairman of the labor rally committee.

The tentative program appears in another column on this page and Mr. Hicks stated that in case that some of the speakers listed thereon cannot attend, others may be substituted to take their places.

Indications point to one of the most enthusiastic and largest Labor gatherings ever to be held in the city of Charlotte. Invitations have been sent out to all affiliated and non-affiliated unions in North Carolina, and many unions have been invited to participate from South Carolina localities.

The meeting will officially open at 2 p.m. with President Hicks presiding. The invocation will be rendered by Rev. A. H. Wilson of the First Christian church, followed by a musical program. The address of welcome will be made by C. A. Fink, president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor, to be followed by Earle R. Britton, Carolinas AFL campaign director, who will introduce the speakers, among whom will be George Googe, Southern campaign co-ordinator, and James F. Barrett, southern AFL public relations chief. Several prominent national Labor figures have been invited, among them William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Green has not accepted yet, due to the press of business matters in Washington and also perhaps due to the fact that arrangement are now being made for the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor to be held in Chicago beginning October 7.

Anyway, a grand rally is anticipated and a good time is in the offing for all those who come to Charlotte next Sunday. And, too, this will be the official opening of the Southern AFL drive from a local standpoint. Plans will be advanced and put into motion to bring thousands of unorganized workers into the folds of AFL unions in this vicinity. After all, that is the main purpose of this Labor rally.

CARMEN WIN DISPUTE

San Francisco—Members of the Carmen's Union (AFL) have agreed to accept a city-offered compromise of their demands guaranteeing them \$1.24 an hour by charter amendment in November. The settlement rate is retroactive to July 1, and is only one cent less than the original union demand.