



"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.

# 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.

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CENTRAL LABOR  
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N. C. FEDERATION  
NOW!

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## S. C. FEDERATION OPENS 3 NEW OFFICES

### Spartanburg, Columbia And Charleston Named Key Points In Campaign

Announcement was made this week by President Earl R. Britton of the South Carolina Federation of Labor that three new State offices have been opened by the South Carolina Federation of Labor and that the South Carolina Federation plans to do all possible to co-operate with the Southern organization campaign now under way.

One of the offices set up is in Spartanburg. It is located in Carpenters Hall, 141 1-2 East Broad street. The telephone number is 4181. The South Carolina director of organization, J. L. Kinney, president of the South Carolina Carpenters Council, is in charge of this office, and Mrs. Dorothy Gaston, who is attached to the staff of the United Garment Workers of America, has also been assigned to the Spartanburg headquarters. Mr. Britton states that most of the Piedmont section of South Carolina will be handled through the Spartanburg office.

At Columbia another office has been set up in Carpenters Hall at 1111 Hampton avenue, and C. O. Gamble, second vice president of the S. C. Federation, is at present directing organizing efforts for the central part of South Carolina from that office. A full-time secretary, Mrs. Griffith, has been employed for Columbia. The phone is 4-4483.

For Charleston the executive board of the S. C. Federation has just appointed W. H. Arnold of Carpenters and Joiners Local No. 159 as an organizer for the Charleston district, which includes Georgetown and Beaufort. The Charleston office is set up temporarily in Carpenters Hall on King street. However, announcement will be made next week as to where the Charleston permanent headquarters will be. In the meantime this office may be reached over phone 2-0066, this being the carpenters' listing.

Mr. Gamble, in charge of the Columbia office, is the full-time business agent for Columbia Local No. 282, I. B. E. W.

#### 53,000 ARMY WORKERS SLATED FOR DISMISSAL

Washington, D. C.—According to Maj. Gen. C. H. Bonesteel, president of the War Department Manpower Board, President Truman's economy program will call for the dismissal of approximately 53,000 civilian employees.

According to instructions from the Budget Bureau, the total number of civilian employees would be cut to 519,500. On July 31 the War Department had 572,579 civilian employees throughout the country. In the New York City area 21,595 civilian employees will be cut to 13,421.

The all-time high of civilian employees was reached in June, 1943, when 1,360,547 were on the payroll. Shortly before V-J Day, the number had been reduced to 1,138,000. The Navy recently announced that its corps of 433,000 civilian employees would be reduced to 428,000 by Oct. 1.

#### TIME CHANGE IS MADE IN PROGRAM FOR COAST

Washington, D. C.—Announcement was made by AFL officials that the regular "Labor-USA" radio program, heard on Pacific Coast Stations of the American Broadcasting Co. from 2:45 to 3 p.m. (Pacific time) each Saturday, will be heard from 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. on the West Coast beginning September 28 through November 23.

The change to a later time in the broadcast is expected to be more convenient to listeners.

#### DELEGATE NAMED TO NATIONAL MEET BY LOCAL A.F.G.E.

At this week's meeting of the Charlotte Lodge No. 795, American Federation of Government Employees, W. M. Belch, lodge president, was named to represent the Charlotte local before the National convention which meets in St. Paul, Minn., beginning September 16. President Belch has also been named to represent Lodge No. 812, U. S. Naval Depot, Norfolk, Va., at the convention, and also he will serve as a representative from Charlotte Lodge 795-A.

Mr. Belch plans to leave here Friday for St. Paul in time for the opening of the convention and will remain there throughout the several days meeting.

The Charlotte lodge was reorganized some time ago and has been making excellent progress since its reformation. Mr. Belch states. His organization is said to be representative of about 5,000 governmental workers in Charlotte and vicinity, making it one of the largest unions affiliated with Charlotte Central Labor union, when it has reached its membership peak.

#### U. S. LABOR GROUPS INVITED ON TOUR OF ARGENTINA

Washington, D. C.—Plans to invite a group of American labor leaders to Argentina to see how labor unions function in that country were announced by Dr. Oscar Ivanissevich, Argentine ambassador, following a telephone conference with President Juan D. Peron.

The American group, the envoy said, would number about 15 and the trip would occupy between 10 and 14 days. The ambassador said he would ask the AFL to nominate prospective visitors from its organization.

Under plans outlined by Dr. Ivanissevich his government would provide a plane for the mission, which would be flown to Buenos Aires where they would be greeted by J. M. Freire, Minister of Labor. The itinerary would include visits to the chief manufacturing areas, conferences with union leaders and a tour of ranches and wheat farms to observe conditions of farm labor.

AFL leaders had no immediate comment on the proposal.

#### D. C. LABOR GROUP PLANS 50TH BIRTHDAY BANQUET

Washington, D. C.—Plans are under way in the Washington Central Labor Union (AFL) for the celebration of its 50th anniversary October 19, highlighted with a banquet at the Mayflower hotel. The organization has some 100 affiliated locals with a total membership of 200,000 in the Capital area.

President Truman, members of the Cabinet and other high-ranking Government officials have been invited to attend the celebration, in which 1,200 local labor representatives and civic groups will participate.

### S. C. Federation Officials



## AFL Retains Right To Speak For American Labor In ILO

#### GOVERNMENT SELECTS MOST REPRESENTATIVE WORKERS' SPOKESMAN

Washington, D. C.—In a smashing victory for the American Federation of Labor the United States Government granted the AFL the right to nominate the American workers' delegate to the world conference of the International Labor Organization, which will open September 19 in Montreal.

Informed of the decision, AFL President William Green immediately named Robert J. Watt, international AFL representative, to continue his service in this post.

Mr. Watt has been the official delegate of American labor in the councils of the International Labor Organization for the last 10 years and is a member of the ILO governing board. He will go to Montreal from the Electrical and Painters' convention in California.

Commenting upon the decisions of the United States Government to continue to recognize the AFL as the most representative spokesman for all of American labor, Mr. Green said:

"The decision was just, and in accord with the provisions of the constitution of the ILO, which provides that the workers' delegate be selected by the most representative organization in each nation affiliated with the ILO."

Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach's decision, announced by Assistant Secretary of Labor David A. Morse, came as a severe blow to CIO leaders who contended they should be given equal recognition, and that the post of American delegate should be alternated between the two organizations on an annual basis.

From the moment this issue was raised, Mr. Green pursued a militant course, based upon the contention that the AFL, representing the great majority of American workers and a participant for 19 years in ILO councils, should continue in this role.

The action was regarded in many quarters as a death blow to CIO hopes of building up to a position

of importance in world labor affairs and placing the AFL far in the forefront.

In making the announcement, Mr. Morse said the CIO would be "invited" to send "advisers" to the AFL delegate. CIO President Murray, irked by the Government's decision, refused.

The decision marked a complete reversal of Mr. Schwelienbach's earlier position. Some months ago he notified the AFL of his plan to place the post of delegate on a rotating plan between the AFL and the CIO.

AFL officials declared, and in this were firmly backed by the AFL Executive Council, that they would refuse to participate in the ILO on this basis. They took the clear-cut stand that the ILO constitution required each nation to consult with its most representative labor organization in the selection of the workers' delegate. The AFL offered to submit proof that it is the most representative workers' organization in America, and though the CIO conceded this point, it insisted that, nevertheless, it was entitled to representation also.

When it came to a showdown, Mr. Schwelienbach withdrew his previous decision and announced he would recommend that President Truman appoint an AFL member.

In making this final ruling, it was reported that Mr. Schwelienbach yielded to White House pressure, although President Truman told a press conference that the matter had not yet reached him.

In a resolution condemning the original plan to rotate U. S. labor representation in the ILO, the Executive Council said in part:

"This would be a shocking departure from principle and precedent. It seems inconceivable to the Executive Council that the United States Government should jeopardize its integrity by following such a course.

"For the Government to make such a decision on an arbitrary basis, contrary to the facts and merely for the purpose of political appeasement, would be a violation of its commitments under the treaty which made the United

States a member of the International Labor Organization.

"This is more than a mere question of rivalry between two labor organizations. The honor and integrity of the United States Government in its dealings with other nations are involved. These are too precious to be bargained for a mess of political potage."

#### NLRB HEAD DENIES FREE SPEECH GAG

Atlantic City.—Free speech is still sacred in America and there is nothing in the National Labor Relations Act which would change this, NLRB Chairman Paul M. Herzog assured 600 delegates to the 60th annual convention of the Printing Industry of America.

Declaring that it "has not yet been the fate" of the NLRA to be accepted by everyone, Herzog said:

"It is our opinion, as reflected in repeated decisions, that it was not the intent of Congress, through the labor act, to forbid an employer to express opinions as to labor unions, so long as his expressions do not constitute acts of threats of discrimination or intimidation, or denial of his employees' uninhibited exercise of their right to organize free from employer interference.

Mr. Herzog said that the object of the concern of the NLRB members in so-called "free speech" cases is interference with a right rather than with an utterance concerning that right. He said that the right involved is the right that holds that employees are entitled to and shall be protected in the selection of unions of their own choosing.

"The prescription, therefore, runs against coercion rather than against expression," he declared. "The question in every such case is whether, in fact, the employers' conduct does or does not constitute coercion. If it does, he cannot successfully invoke the Constitution of the United States. If it does not, that same Constitution provides him with an impregnable shield."

The home—your home—is the bulwark of the nation.

### VFW Votes To Back Labor On Housing, And Anti-Red Issues

Boston.—The Veterans of Foreign Wars, representing 1,800,000 veterans of three wars, in session here, threw its whole-hearted support behind the American Federation of Labor's stand against Communism and for prompt passage of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft long-range housing bill.

Responding to a militant address on these and other issues by AFL President William Green, the convention passed resolutions urging President Truman to recall Congress to pass the housing measure and demanded legislation to "abolish and prohibit" the Communist Party and other subversive groups from appearing on any ballot within the United States and its possessions.

On the housing issue, the convention overwhelmingly overrode an earlier resolution presented by its special housing committee, which had proposed that no action be taken until the W-E-T measure had been carefully studied by the VFW legislative council.

In its anti-Red action, the convention sharply condemned the "cancerous growth of Communism and Fascism" and demanded that "false servants" of the Government who lend aid and comfort to advocates of either doctrine be ferreted out and dismissed.

In his address to the convention, Mr. Green sounded an urgent appeal also to the ex-servicemen to join with organized labor in combating "reactionary forces" seeking by State and Federal legislation to shackle and retard the union labor movement.

"There is no need for me to recite to you the long list of specific instances in which the American Federation of Labor has thrown its support behind the cause of the veterans during the last year," he said. "The record is clear and speaks for itself.

"Today labor needs and asks for your co-operation. An active campaign now is under way in state legislatures and in the National Congress by reactionary forces to put through restrictive legislation to shackle the attempts of the trade union movement to raise the American standard of living.

"This is a dangerous trend—dangerous not only to the workers throughout the Nation, but to our national welfare as a whole. The free enterprise of labor is a basic part of our whole free enterprise system. A free America cannot exist without free labor.

"The anti-labor forces which are launching these legislative assaults think they are heading in the direction of fascism, but they may succeed in driving America toward communism. We of the American Federation of Labor want neither. We believe in democracy and in fair and equal treatment for all.

"During the last war, you proved that the soldiers of a free country can outfight the armed forces of totalitarians. Likewise, we of labor proved that free workers can out-produce the slave labor of totalitarianism. This teamwork that proved unconquerable during the war will also help us to win the peace, to keep America free and to create in our land a proper standard of living for all our people."

Calling for support of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill, Mr. Green told the convention:

"The emergency legislation for veterans' housing, so acutely needed, was firmly supported by the American Federation of Labor, but it did not succeed in supplying the new homes which were needed.

"Reports were circulated, blaming labor for the failure to build enough housing. Your leaders investigated this propaganda and found it completely untrue. Housing Expediter Wyatt publicly proclaimed that the building trades

unions had waived conditions of long standing to speed the veterans' home construction program and that labor was making special efforts to supply the skilled labor necessary.

"The facts are that there is no labor shortage today in the construction industry, nor is there likely to be. The real bottlenecks preventing the fulfillment of veterans' housing needs are the continuing shortage of construction materials and inflation of real estate values which has resulted in the bringing of new homes far beyond the reach of most servicemen. Also there has been a lamentable surplus of confusion on the part of the large number of federal agencies which are participating in the direction of the housing program.

"I urge the Veterans of Foreign Wars to join labor in supporting this bill because it provides for the encouragement of large-scale housing projects at prices that the majority of veterans can afford. Under this bill, the construction industry will again be able to undertake the building of rental housing, which is not now being produced."

#### TRACY RETURNED TO PRESIDENCY OF ELECTRICAL UNION

San Francisco.—Dan W. Tracy, who resigned the presidency of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) in 1940 after serving for seven years to become Assistant Secretary of Labor, was re-elected president of the organization at its annual convention here.

He defeated the incumbent president, E. J. Brown, by a vote of 30,928 to 77,428. The convention unanimously re-elected G. H. Bugnazzet as international secretary; William Hogan, treasurer, and Charles M. Paulson, chairman of the executive council.

Mr. Tracy resigned from the Labor Department in March, and since that time has been labor relations counsellor of the International Labor Organization.

#### AFL AUTO UNION WINS PAY RAISE IN MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee, Wis.—Local 232 of the International Union of United Automobile Workers of America with the Briggs & Stratton Corp. here which represents many distinct gains for the union.

According to Anthony Doria, international secretary-treasurer of the UAW-AFL, some of the bettered conditions were: improved seniority rights, an added week of vacation with pay for employees with five years or more of seniority with computation of vacation pay also to take in overtime earnings; wage increases of 18 1-2 cents an hour or 18.7 per cent, whichever is greatest for all employees, which will mean a minimum increase of 18 1-2 cents an hour and a possible 27-cents an hour for higher rated employees.

All wage increases, with the exception of the tool room employees, are retroactive to February 1, 1946.