

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL AND CAROLINA JOURNAL OF LABOR

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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.

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

UNIONISTS ALL!

"We each carry a card in the union of the United States," I once heard a speaker at a State Federation of Labor meeting say. What does that mean? What does membership in a union demand? Labor men can answer because they know that being a good union member is not an easy task.

Union members must become articulate. They must be able to be a competent accurate voice for their fellow workers, presenting facts clearly, logically and dispassionately, not only in their union but in the community.

Knowledge is the secret of successful membership but it must be more than superficial cognizance of problems immediately confronting a local union. Too many men stop with a knowledge of the handicaps—thereby seeing only one side of the picture.

They must look upon the world as a whole, realizing the interdependence of group upon group, nation upon nation. Too many union members act as though they still thought the world was flat.

They must realize the importance of their vote in their unions and learn how to choose, and then support wholeheartedly, competent, trustworthy leadership, or, and this is just as important, present the views of the "loyal opposition."

The power of a union comprised of such men is unlimited. Through co-operative organization they shall obtain power, but that power must not be used for themselves alone, but for the good of all.

Uncle Sam Says



I doff my hat to labor, Labor Day, not only for doing a grand job for our country in time of war but for its good sense in continuing to invest part of its earnings in U. S. Savings Bonds.



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PRESIDENT ASKS NATION TO OBSERVE 'EMPLOY-THE-HANDICAPPED' WEEK

President Truman has issued a proclamation designating the week of October 6 to 12 as "National Employ-the-Handicapped" week to place capable disabled persons in jobs.

The action stemmed in part from official Government reports showing that four out of every five disabled veterans applying for jobs at public employment offices in the first half of this year have not been placed, despite the fact that a careful survey has shown that disabled workers in general have proven themselves more efficient than able-bodied fellow workers.

Government agencies, headed by the Veterans Administration and the Labor Department, have joined in spearheading a drive to convince employers that it is good business to employ a disabled worker if he can produce more than a plant's other workers.

Reporting on a careful study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department, the VA declared:

"Disabled veterans experience one-third fewer serious accidents than able-bodied workers exposed to identical work hazards. The study placed the accident frequency rate for impaired workers at 8.3 injuries per 1,000,000 man hours worked, compared with 11.8 for unimpaired workers.

"Time lost because of disabling injuries was the same for impaired and unimpaired employees, 0.1 day per 100 scheduled work days.

"During the six months covered by the survey, none of the injuries sustained by disabled workers resulted in additional permanent impairments. Furthermore, no instances were reported of handicapped workers causing injuries to fellow employees.

"The survey, conducted between January 1 and July 1, 1946, studied the performances of 4,000 physically handicapped and 6,400 able-bodied employees in 47 manufacturing plants. The study matched handicapped and nonhandicapped workers as to sex, age, experience on the job, and kind of work performed. The plants, located in seven highly industrialized states, were classified with machinery, aircraft and aircraft parts, electrical machinery, steel works, and other industries, such as food products, photographic equipment and glassware."

The survey arrived at three further conclusions: The production efficiency record of impaired workers was slightly superior to that of unimpaired workers.

Absentee rates for impaired and unimpaired workers were identical, 3.8 days off per 100 scheduled work days.

Non disabling injury rates were slightly higher for unimpaired workers.

S. C. FEDERATION SETS UP NEW OFFICES

The South Carolina Federation of Labor is to be commended for its farsightedness in setting up three new offices in South Carolina to aid AFL officials in the current organization campaign in that State.

The South-wide campaign has brought out the need in every southern state for branch offices and sufficient organizing personnel to man them. This has been one of Southern Labor's weakest spots.

North Carolina Labor, The Journal believes, will not let South Carolina get ahead of it, and the writer predicts that before long Tarheelia will have offices all over the State, together with sufficient personnel to handle the work in them.

SEAMEN RETURNING TO WORK

Soothing news came over the wires and radio this week announcing that the AFL Seamen's Union membership were returning to work following a brief shutdown while the White House was unraveling one of its toughest problems, that of having to reverse a decision of one of its bureaus, which had decided recently that seamen working on ships belonging to the government (and leased out) could not have the benefit of salary increases negotiated by their union and privately owned shipping lines.

Central Labor Union Notes

The regular weekly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union was held this week with Vice President J. A. Scoggins presiding in the absence of President Sterling L. Hicks, who has been attending the convention of the electrical workers in San Francisco.

WORKING IT OUT

By FRANCES PERKINS

I take great satisfaction in introducing this week as a guest in this column, Mr. Wilson W. Wyatt, Administrator of the National Housing Agency, whose work in this field has been of great importance to the wage earners.

trades and crafts in some areas. By the end of June on-site employment in new residential construction stood at 560,000. This figure must be increased to almost 1,000,000 by November, and to about 1,100,000 by August 1947.

LABOR'S STAKE IN VETERANS HOUSING

By Wilson W. Wyatt, National Housing Expediter and Administrator, National Housing Agency. Labor has a double stake in the Veterans Emergency Housing Program. First, it has a vital stake in the houses that are being built, for many former servicemen are now civilian workers looking for reasonably-priced housing.

Aware of coming shortages, labor and management are stimulating apprenticeship and on-the-job-training programs with encouraging results thus far. Communities are also taking steps to assure maximum use of available labor to aid the housing program.

The Veterans Emergency Housing Program is the biggest home building program ever undertaken by this or any other nation. It aims for the starting of 2,700,000 moderately-priced homes and apartments for veterans by the end of 1947—1,200,000 in 1946 and 1,500,000 in 1947.

The housing program is receiving excellent co-operation from labor. By agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, a Construction Labor Advisory Committee has been appointed which will advise on labor policies and procedures relating to construction and construction standards.

In spite of starting with an industry which the war had left almost flat on its back, we have achieved the starting of almost 500,000 homes thus far—41 per cent of our 1946 goal.

No full employment program can succeed without a healthy, stable home building industry. The Veterans Housing Program is only a step in that direction.

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