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CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

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

AND
CAROLINA

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

JOURNAL 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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Bradley Asks Little Firms To Give Disabled Breaks

Portland, Ore.—An urgent appeal to small firms to make room in their organizations for disabled veterans was sounded here by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, before the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

The small employer, generally, is slower to hire disabled servicemen "because he is less willing to take what he mistakenly thinks will be a financial risk," Gen. Bradley told the 1,000 delegates.

In most cases of this reluctance, Gen. Bradley inferred, agencies who try to stimulate the hiring of physically handicapped veterans had not got around to the employer with the "proof" that it was "good business" to employ them. The record showed, Gen. Bradley said, that there was no basis for fears that subsequent injuries were more likely to occur among the physically handicapped.

Nor was it true, he went on, that their employment would increase the cost of workmen's compensation insurance to the employer for a higher rate was charged because disabled workers were employed.

Legislation in 33 states setting up so-called "second injury" funds to compensate partially disabled workers who might become totally disabled through further injuries had been a "powerful help" in removing fears of many small employers, the General said, and he urged further legislation of this type.

He did so, he explained, despite his own belief that the fears were groundless.

"A man with two legs is a lot more likely to grow careless at a factory machine than the veteran who carries with him the memory of a leg lost through no fault of his own in an enemy mine field," Gen. Bradley asserted.

"Nevertheless, second-injury funds should be set up in all states, so that employers will not be required to incur an unreasonable risk in hiring persons already partially disabled."

About 25,000 handicapped veterans now were employed, at least (Please Turn to Page 3)

21 More Building Materials Are Freed Of Price Control

Washington, D. C.—Price controls on 21 more construction and industrial materials, with an annual production value of \$110,000,000, have been suspended by the Office of Price Administration.

As this action was being taken here, spokesmen at the opening of the annual convention of the National Contract Hardware Association and the American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants, in session in Chicago, declared that production of builders' hardware will reach a peak in 1948 with output at the rate of \$110,000,000 annually.

Production of most of the items freed from OPA control, the agency said, should be sufficient to meet present and future demands, and these are regarded as not essential to the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program.

The most important commodity decontrolled was that of refractories (glazed ware). A \$25,000,000 annual production of refractories was freed. This, taking into account a \$60,000,000 production from which controls previously were lifted, completed the suspension of controls on all industrial refractories.

Other major commodities from which controls were removed included the following: Dry, flamed pulp color pigments, cadmium pigments and ceramic colors and decorating compositions with an annual value of \$31,000,000.

Vitreous enamel frit, which is used in the enameling of iron, steel and clay products, with a production valued at \$15,000,000 a year. Slags for commercial blast furnaces and for chemical, industrial, construction and agricultural uses, valued at \$12,000,000.

Price controls also were suspended on the following: Calcimine, cement retorted rock, clay chimney pots and tops, vitri-

fied clay closet bowls and slop bowls, metallic soaps, electrical clay conduit, clay filter blocks, floor harjeners, gypsum retarder, cement stone and paper mill stone, limestone, masonry waterproofing compounds, pipe compounds, putty and caulking compounds, and clay segment blocks.

SAYS GOVERNMENT 'STUPIDITY' CAUSED SEAMEN TO STRIKE

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Government "stupidity" alone is responsible for the seamen's strike, AFL President William Green declared here in an attack on the Wage Stabilization Board.

In an address before the convention of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association, Mr. Green vigorously assailed Government dictation in matters which unions and employers attempt to settle between themselves.

"Here is an instance," he declared, "where responsibility for interference with transportation and production rests squarely with an agency of the Government.

"What we need is less Government control in fixing wages. We want to be free men who can sell their labor under their terms and not be compelled to work under wages fixed by the Government.

"That is Communism, and we don't have any Communism in the American Federation of Labor."

Citing the gradual disintegration of the CIO, he referred particularly to "two great unions, which discovered they had made a mistake and came back home." He was making reference, he added, to the United Mine Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers, both of which returned to the AFL after an earlier affiliation with the CIO.

ILGWU PRESENTS \$5,000 TO NEW VETS' GROUP

New York City.—A check for \$5,000 has been presented by President David Dubinsky of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL) from his organization members to the American Veterans Committee.

Mr. Dubinsky, a vice president of the AFL, expressed high praise for the AVC and presented the check in his New York office to two members of the AVC's administrative committee—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Oren Root, Jr.

The AVC now has between 70,000 and 72,000 members and is at present conducting a drive for \$1,000,000 to finance its campaign to raise its membership to 1,000,000 veterans of the second World War. The ILGWU's contribution was the first to be donated by a labor organization, which, Mr. Dubinsky declared, would be followed by other gifts from locals of the union.

The AVC, Mr. Dubinsky commented, was the only organization he knew to have given a formal endorsement to a pro-labor policy.

MORE TIN PLATE

Washington, D. C.—The Civilian Production Administration has freed for general use an additional 15 per cent of tin plate production, which earlier had been channeled to the manufacture of cans for such urgent items as perishable foods and pharmaceuticals. The modification, effective September 30, was adopted on recommendation of the industry's advisory committee.

Carpenters Win Election At Bost Equipment Plant

The Charlotte local of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America won an election at the Bost Building Equipment plant, which was conducted here recently, according to an announcement made from the office of the Carpenters' local this week. The election was supervised by Tasker Howard, Jr., for the government.

DELEGATES ARE URGED TO WIRE FOR ROOMS

Delegates to the National Convention of the American Federation of Labor, opening at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago October 7, are urged to send in their applications for hotel reservations at once, to obtain confirmations.

Indications are that accommodations will be at a premium, and they are being made on a "first-come, first-served basis." Late applicants will necessarily be quartered in other hotels. Every effort is being made to provide maximum facilities for the convention delegates at the Morrison.

Applications for reservations should be addressed to Harry E. O'Reilly, Secretary of the AFL Convention Committee, Chicago Federation of Labor, 666 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

Teamsters Sign Rock Hill Bus Drivers 100 Pct.

The Rock Hill bus drivers have been signed up 100 per cent by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs and Warehousemen, according to an announcement by local labor officials here this week. An organization campaign has been under way in Rock Hill for some time and this is perhaps the first union to report a 100 per cent organization from that city.

CONVENTION IN CONNECTICUT RAPS FEDERAL DICTATION

Hartford, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor (AFL), at its convention here, voted against continuance of jurisdiction by Government agencies in labor disputes.

The resolution unanimously adopted by the delegates stated that "so far as possible, labor and management should try to adjust their differences without the intervention of a Government tribunal" and that "facilities should be created making it possible for the union and the company involved to place issues before an objective group of local, prominent labor and industrial persons who command the respect of all concerned to mediate such disputes, and who would have a better understanding of conditions in the area than outsiders."

HOME-BUILDING PUT FIRST

Washington, D. C.—The Civilian Production Administration has rejected 222 applications for \$11,000,000 of nonhousing construction to channel materials into home building.

MISS PERKINS APPOINTED

Washington, D. C.—Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins was appointed by President Truman to the U. S. Civil Service Commission. She will be the only woman in the Administration who will report directly to the President.

CAR OPERATORS GET RAISE

Chicago, Ill.—District 900 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees (AFL) have just announced a wage increase of 18 1/2 cents an hour for 500 of the North Shore and Milwaukee railroad employees.

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Child Welfare Programs Get Increased U. S. Funds

Operators Pay 2 1-2 Millions Into UMW Pension Fund

JAP LABOR PROGRESSING ALONG AMERICAN STYLE

Tokyo.—A basic law aimed at elimination of "every trace of feudalism" from Japanese labor has been drafted by the Welfare Ministry. It features an 8-hour day, 48-hour week, minimum wage levels, a ban on hiring children under 15 and employing women or workers under 18 for night jobs in mine pits.

The tentative draft of the new labor charter follows by only a few days the final report of the labor advisory committee of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters, which paid high tribute to the achievements in the labor field in Japan since American occupation. It noted, however, that "much remains to be done."

"Remarkable progress has been made in removing obstacles to labor organizations, establishing basic rights of labor and otherwise implementing sound basic policies," the report said. "Matters of top priority have received primary attention."

Recommendations for the attainment of long-range objectives included the broadening and strengthening of basic labor legislation and "thorough overhauling" of the nation's labor administration machinery. The report also suggested education of both the public and unions on "the functions of labor unions, the nature of collective bargaining and the importance of labor legislation."

The committee approved the labor disputes adjustment bill now before the Diet (Parliament) as setting up proper procedure for conciliation, mediation and arbitration. It found the trade union law a "practical success," but felt that it does not provide a clear-cut set of rules to govern labor relations.

The report described man power as "Japan's only plentiful resource" and emphasized the necessity of its effective use. It recommended a strong public works program.

"The advancement of labor is one of the best guarantees against any future revival of militarism and aggression," the committee said.

BOARDS TO STUDY HIGHER PAY PLANS

New York City.—Boards now being named by State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi will consider higher wage standards for 350,000 workers in this state.

The boards will review the minimum wages now fixed by state order for 160,000 restaurant workers, 104,000 hotel employees, 35,000 laundry workers, 14,000 employees in cleaning and dyeing establishments and 12,000 employed in beauty shops.

The existing wage order in the restaurant industry calls for a minimum rate of 30 cents an hour and meals for employees whose wages are not supplemented by tips and 20 cents an hour and meals for those who receive tips in addition to wages. Overtime is figured at the rate of time and one-half for work over 45 hours a week.

CAR OPERATORS GET RAISE

Chicago, Ill.—District 900 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees (AFL) have just announced a wage increase of 18 1/2 cents an hour for 500 of the North Shore and Milwaukee railroad employees.

Washington, D. C.—The welfare and retirement fund, provided under the bituminous wage agreement signed by the United Mine Workers (AFL) on May 29, already has accumulated \$2,500,000, Admiral Ben Moreell, Federal coal mines administrator, announced here.

The money represents the first payment, on August 15, by coal producers, of a contribution of 5 cents on each ton of their output between June 1 and July 15. The next payment is due September 15, and thereafter payments will be made on a monthly basis.

The bituminous coal mines have been in Government possession since May 22, when wage negotiations collapsed. In a preliminary report, Rear Admiral W. J. Carter, Navy paymaster general and custodian of the fund, reported satisfactory progress in collecting the fund levy.

Admiral Carter will handle the fund until three trustees are appointed under the terms of the agreement worked out by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug and John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers' chief.

The fund is to be used for payments to miners and their dependents or survivors for temporary or permanent disabilities or death and for retirement and other welfare purposes. The payments are intended to make up for lack of insufficient compensation under Federal and State laws.

No expenditures will be made from the fund until the three trustees have been appointed and an accounting has been made.

Under the agreement, Admiral (Please Turn to Page 2)

Washington, D. C.—Increased child welfare services throughout the Nation were predicted here by Miss Katherine Lenroot, chief of the Labor Department's Children's Bureau, in a statement accompanying a State-by-State announcement of funds made newly available under an amendment to the Social Security Act.

For the fiscal year 1946-47, Congress appropriated \$3,500,000 as against a previous annual sum of \$1,510,000, more than doubling the amount nationally available for apportionment on a basis of a flat sum of \$20,000 to each State with additional amounts in proportion to the rural population.

Some of the new totals are: New York, \$115,980, an increase of \$67,004 over the previous annual amount; Texas, \$165,363, a \$96,339 increase; Pennsylvania, \$157,472, a \$91,646 increase; North Carolina, \$127,722, a \$74,014 increase; Alabama, \$102,028, a \$58,724 increase; California \$103,194, increase \$59,415; Georgia \$105,053, increase \$60,512; Illinois, \$106,617, increase \$61,442; Kentucky, \$102,828, increase \$59,198; Ohio \$115,200, increase \$66,547.

"With this extra help which all the people through Congress, are giving, we should see a major expansion of these vital services for neglected, dependent, and delinquent children and for any children in need of special help," Miss Lenroot said.

"This is a welcome prospect, for five out of six counties in the country today have no full-time child-welfare worker paid from public funds to lend skilled counsel and guidance in protecting the well-being of the socially handicapped child."

While states make their own decisions on how the funds will be spent, it is expected that much of it will go into salaries for full-time welfare workers to find foster (Please Turn to Page 4)

16 1-2 Cent Raise Urged For 50,000 W.U. Workers

Washington, D. C.—Wage increases for 50,000 Western Union workers, who are members of three AFL unions, were recommended to Labor Secretary L. B. Schwellenbach by a special fact-finding board he appointed to study the pay dispute.

The board proposed an average hourly increase of 16 1/2 cents an hour for telegraph workers and a raise of 10 cents an hour for messengers. This is in addition to the 12-cent hourly increase approved for workers in the telegraph industry December 29 by the War Labor Board.

Immediately after receiving the report Secretary Schwellenbach urged union leaders and company officials to resume negotiations, using the board's recommendations as a basis for settlement. The three AFL unions comprise the National Co-ordinating Board for workers in the telegraph industry associated with the Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

Copies of the board's findings were mailed by Secretary Schwellenbach to W. Lee Cooney, president of the Telegraph Workers' Union; J. A. Payne, chairman of the Western Union Division; Hal Swan, president of the Telegraph Employees' Union, and to officers of the company.

The board found that the increase granted in December under the Little Steel formula was late in arrival and trailed most of the other raises granted to major industries.

The board recommended:

A general increase of 12 1/2 cents hourly for all nonmessenger employees, and 10 cents an hour for messengers.

For the AFL unions, a sum averaging 4 cents per man hour be added to an existing fund, to be distributed after negotiations to provide an equitable and balanced wage rate structure.

All adjustments to be retroactive to last June 2.

With regard to the company's major contention that it was financially unable to pay any wage increase, the majority opinion said:

"The ability to pay principle cannot be applied as an absolute determinant of wages. To apply it as an absolute determinant would result in a wage scale that fluctuates with the rise and fall of business profits."

The majority opinion was signed by Chairman Saul Wallen, former chairman of the New England regional war labor board, and Thomas Donahue, former chairman of the Michigan state mediation board.