

Building Trades To Meet In Wilmington

The North Carolina Building Trades Council will hold a meeting Sunday, September 22, at 10 o'clock at 107 1/2 North Third street in Wilmington, at which time many important matters will come up for discussion and disposal.

Building tradesmen state that the meeting will be one of the most important to be held in the State in some time, due to the many building trades problems building tradesmen are facing today.

Matters in connection with the current American Federation of Labor organization campaign will also come before the meeting, it is understood. The building tradesmen have taken the leading part in organization work during the campaign up to this stage and it is said that they are greatly interested in the progress of the campaign from a state-wide standpoint.

Charlotte will be represented by a nice delegation which will include John Lovett, a local labor man who is also a vice president of the N. C. Federation of Labor, Claude Nolan of the Carpenters and Joiners of America, J. E. Cuthbertson, president of the Charlotte Building Trades Council; E. L. Stitt, business agent and secretary of the Electrical Workers union, and others. Director Earl R. Britton of the Carolinas office of the American Federation of Labor, will also be a visitor and will address the meeting. Most of the Charlotte delegation will leave for Wilmington Saturday.

H. L. Rouse of Wilmington is president of the State organization, and H. C. Sawyer is secretary-treasurer.

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159,786 Workers To Be Cut From Federal Payroll

Washington, D. C.—Under new orders of the Budget Bureau, 159,786 persons on the Federal payroll will be dismissed by November 16.

Revised figures set a ceiling of 2,359,709 for the Government's working force after that date—an over-all cut of 1,290,060 since Federal employment hit its wartime peak with Japan's surrender little more than a year ago.

The bureau said the decreases were ordered to absorb partially the 14 per cent pay increase Congress voted last session for white-collar Federal workers.

The white-collar workers—particularly stenographers, secretaries and clerks—will be hardest hit by the reduction order. Congress, in voting the pay raise, set a ceiling of 528,975 for such workers during the third quarter and the Budget Bureau disclosed that this number will be cut further to 485,035 by the November 16 deadline.

The bureau's announcement that Government personnel ceilings are to be cut by 159,786 by November 16 replaces a previous report that the cut would be 104,400.

PACKERS BEGIN LAYOFFS

Chicago.—Major packing plants have begun to lay off thousands of workers due to the recent slump in receipts of livestock. Though packers here were unable to estimate the number to be affected, reports from Kansas City stated between 1,500 and 2,000 there were released in five days.

Story of Labor

HERE IS LABOR'S PROGRAM FOR THE POST-WAR WORLD:
1. FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR EVERYBODY WITH JOB SECURITY
2. FULL PRODUCTION TO FEED, CLOTHE AND HOUSE ALL PEOPLE PROPERLY
3. WAGES THAT GIVE REAL PURCHASING POWER
4. A 30-HOUR WORKING WEEK, FOR ADEQUATE LEISURE
5. AN END TO HATES, SUSPICIONS, RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PREJUDICES
6. A DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE AND PEACE
SUCH A PROGRAM IS NOT EASY TO ATTAIN. BUT ORGANIZED LABOR SAYS IT CAN BE DONE. IF THE MEMBERS OF AMERICA STICK TOGETHER, PULL TOGETHER, AND ALLOW NO UNBROTHERLY HATE TO SOW DISCORD AND DISUNITY AMONG THEM, AND THUS DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THEIR GOAL.



Truman Backs AFL Federal Workers In Opposing Indiscriminate Firing

St. Paul, Minn.—Increased pay for employes of the Federal Government is one of the major goals of the legislative program drafted for the next Congress, James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFL), told the opening session of that organization's annual convention here.

At the same time the delegates were cheered by a message from President Truman expressing firm opposition to indiscriminate dismissals of Federal workers in the current program to slash the payroll.

Conceding that reductions in Federal personnel "are an absolute necessity," Mr. Truman declared, "yet, at the same time we must make sure that we distribute those reductions in such a way that none of the essential services are crippled."

Though he made no specific mention of the Federal Pay Act of 1946, which requires Federal employment be reduced to 1,600,000, the President added that "we must see to it that we do not have any surplus personnel." In conclusion, his message said:

"Your convention is being held at a very important time. Never before in the peacetime history of this Nation have Government employes been called on to discharge as difficult and complex duties and responsibilities. Failure to discharge them effectively would seriously undermine public confidence in our form of government. We must therefore work together to strengthen our career public service."

Expressing gratification of the

President's message, Mr. Burns told the convention:

"That's exactly the same position we have taken for months. We know that sharp personnel cuts must be made and we don't want excess baggage on the Federal payroll. But we contend that the arbitrary personnel ceiling system works hardships on many agencies that can't operate efficiently with less personnel. If we are to have efficient government, we can't slash our payrolls indiscriminately."

The legislative program placed before the delegates by Mr. Burns is aimed at the following objectives:

1. An increase of pay commensurate with the real cost of living since 1941, including a boost for those now retired.
 2. Extension of the Classification Act's benefits to all white-collar clerical workers, including those in the field service.
 3. Prevention of so-called "downgrading" in order to cut salaries.
 4. Establishment of seniority as a stronger factor in determining who shall be separated from the service and in determining promotions.
 5. Protection of the retirement system, with optional retirement at full annuity after 30 years' service.
 6. Six months' half-pay for those dismissed from the service with five or more years' service, and commensurate compensation for those with less tenure.
- Burns did not set a figure for the pay raise to be sought before Congress this winter, but pointed out living costs from 1941 through last month had risen 45 per cent.
- "All this means but one thing," he said, "that Government employes are again piling up an accumu-

BRADLEY ACTS TO ASSURE TRAINING FOR VETERANS

Washington, D. C.—Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, announced special steps to make sure every disabled veteran seeking education can get into schools this fall, regardless of crowded conditions.

He has directed all branch and regional offices to use every possible resource for the admission of disabled veterans to courses they need to complete their vocational training.

Leading all other courses among enrolled veterans was engineering, while mechanics was leading among those in job training. Aviation, banking and finance, chiropractic, communications and utilities training were the least sought for trades among veterans.

NAIL SHORTAGE MORE ACUTE

Washington, D. C.—Supplies of nails are still shrinking and wholesalers report there is no immediate prospect of increasing their stocks. Some expressed belief that manufacturers were refusing to produce nails because they considered OPA ceilings too low to make it worth while.

lated deficit which is represented by the gap between the purchasing value of their salaries and the nominal values of the dollars they receive. Your national office will again be ready to wage another unrelenting campaign for salary legislation when Congress again convenes."

BRADLEY ASKS LITTLE FIRMS TO GIVE DISABLED BREAKS

(Continued from Page 1)

another half million were still to be discharged from the services and the hospitals and almost 100,000 were fitting themselves to fill good jobs under opportunities offered by Public Law 16, the general related.

The employer, he said, should remember "one basic fact" when putting a handicapped veteran on the payroll:

"The job should be fitted to his

ability, rather than to his disability."

Gen. Bradley was loudly applauded when he said the veterans don't want the government to take care of him," and added:

"He must be assisted to return, not to a life of pensions, and invalidism, but to an active and productive career among his working fellow Americans, as a self-reliant, self-supporting, self-respecting citizen."

When you have read The Journal pass it on to your neighbor.

Central Labor Union Notes

The regular weekly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union was held Thursday night and although the weather was inclement an enthusiastic crowd was present to take part in the deliberations. President Sterling L. Hicks was back in the chair, following a 15-day visit to the West Coast where he attended the annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which was held in San Francisco. He reports having witnessed a Labor Day parade in San Francisco in which some 85,000 members of organized labor, both AFL and CIO, participated. Mr. Hicks brought back several San Francisco newspapers in which appeared write-ups and pictures of the parade.

Secretary Efrid was at his post and the meeting was called to order at 8 o'clock. The business session got under way following the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag by the officers and delegates.

Several communications were

read and acted upon and then came the roll call and reports of local unions.

Under the head of good and welfare action was taken to stimulate greater interest in the current AFL membership drive, which has gotten off to an excellent start under the direction of Co-ordinator Earl Britton. It was thought by some of the delegates that several more organizers should be assigned to the North Carolina field to work out of Mr. Britton's Charlotte office and a communication was ordered sent to the North Carolina Federation of Labor executive board outlining this viewpoint. The board will, no doubt, take the matter up with the proper American Federation of Labor officials.

Plans also were discussed for instituting a potent program for the Charlotte Central Labor Union in the weeks ahead, in order that every possible local co-operation may be extended Mr. Britton and his staff during the organization campaign.

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