



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

AFFILIATE WITH YOUR CENTRAL LABOR UNION AND THE N. C. FEDERATION NOW!

Charlotte Labor Journal

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ELECTION AT OLD DOMINION PLANT OCT. 23

BARGAINING AGENT TO BE DECIDED BY VOTE OF BOX PLANT'S WORKERS

Wednesday, October 23, has been set as the date for an election at the plant of the Old Dominion Box Company in Charlotte, to determine the collective bargaining agent for the employees in that plant. The Old Dominion plant has been under process of organization by the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers for several weeks and this union petitioned for an NLRB election recently.

Donald W. Hunt, international representative of the union, has been in charge of the local organization activities. Mr. Hunt states that his work here has been fought bitterly by the management of Old Dominion, but that he is certain the workers in the plant are sufficiently enlightened on the subject to know enough to vote for union representation rather than employer representation. Approximately 275 people are employed at the plant.

Recently Representative Hunt addressed a letter to E. S. Dillard, vice president and general manager of Old Dominion, challenging him to debate on the issues involved, the debate to be held in the presence of Old Dominion employees. This, Mr. Hunt explains, is the suggested solution to air out the heated controversy that has been exchanged between Mr. Dillard as company spokesman and himself during the last four months. Representative Hunt today said he has received an unfavorable reply from Mr. Dillard, who with one hand attempted to cause the majority of the people to believe he had accepted the challenge, while with the other hand he imposed impossible terms for the union to accept.

Mr. Hunt's letter to Mr. Dillard, together with Mr. Dillard's reply, follow:

"Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 14, 1946
"Mr. E. S. Dillard, Vice-President, Gen. Mgr.
"Old Dominion Box Company, Inc.,
"Charlotte, N. C.
"Dear Sir:

"During the past four and one half months the workers in the Charlotte plant of your company have spent a great deal of time and effort toward the end of organizing themselves into a collective bargaining unit for the purpose of entering into negotiations with you, and coming to an agreement with you concerning wages and conditions of employment affecting their welfare.

"As every one in this vicinity knows, the battle between the workers and yourself is rapidly approaching a climax. They also know that you have spent considerable sums of money in the preparation and dissemination of unilateral propaganda on controversial issues pertaining to the organization of the workers.

"We are in accord with the statement made by you in your letter of July 9, addressed 'to the employees of Old Dominion,' in which you said, and we quote: 'It seems to me that nobody should make up his or her mind on any subject without hearing and considering both sides.'

"If you are sincere in your quoted statement, we invite you to meet a representative of the International Union in a debate, to be held in the presence of your employees, on the issues involved in the forthcoming election.

"We assure you that nothing you might say, excepting threats to the workers, will be used as a basis for the filing of unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, however; if we do not receive a reply to this letter by October 18, we shall be forced to believe that you have, and are now, seeking to prevent your workers from hearing the truth.

"Yours truly,
"International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers.
"Donald W. Hunt, Representative."

DILLARD'S REPLY.
"Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 15, 1946.
"Mr. Donald W. Hunt,
"Hotel Charlotte,
"Charlotte, N. C.
"Sir, there is no battle between me and the people who work for

Old Dominion. I am with the same company they are. My interests and theirs are the same. You represent the interest of your union—not theirs. I am certainly not going to be a party to any arrangement setting you up as a debater for them.

"If you'll let me speak for the Old Dominion employees as I want to—and you speak for the union you represent—then I'll debate you—whenever and wherever you say."

HUNT COUNTERS.
Below is reproduced Representative Hunt's counter reply to Mr. Dillard's letter of October 15:

"Mr. E. S. Dillard,
"Vice President-Gen. Mgr.
"Old Dominion Box Co.,
"Charlotte, N. C.
"Dear Sir:
"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of Oct. 15 in which you outlined the terms whereby you would enter into a debate with a representative of the Union to be held in the presence of your employees.

"It is obvious that you have side-stepped the issue, and are again using subterfuge to mislead both the workers and the public. Referring to our letter of Oct. 14 you will find the invitation to debate reads as follows: 'If you are sincere in your quoted statement we invite you to meet a representative of this International Union in a debate to be held in the presence of your employees, on the issues involved in the forthcoming election.'

"This invitation does not make any reference to anyone representing the workers as your letter implies. In fact, it is very clear that we desire for the workers of Old Dominion to be the judges of the facts to be brought out in this debate. Again we must say that if you are at all sincere this should be your desire. It is also obvious that this International Union will not at any time recognize any member of management as a representative, or spokesman for its workers.

"We still desire to meet you in a debate on the issues involved in the election, with no one designated to represent the workers, but for the WORKERS TO BE THE JUDGES of the issues as represented by yourself and our representative. We suggest that this debate be held in your plant on Monday, Oct. 21, at an hour when the majority of the workers may attend.

"We must repeat that if you refuse to debate on the issues involved in the election, we shall be forced to believe that you have, and are now, seeking to prevent your workers from hearing the truth, and furthermore you do not dare defend the statements you have made concerning the Union in the presence of the workers.

"Yours truly,
"International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers.
"Donald W. Hunt, Representative."

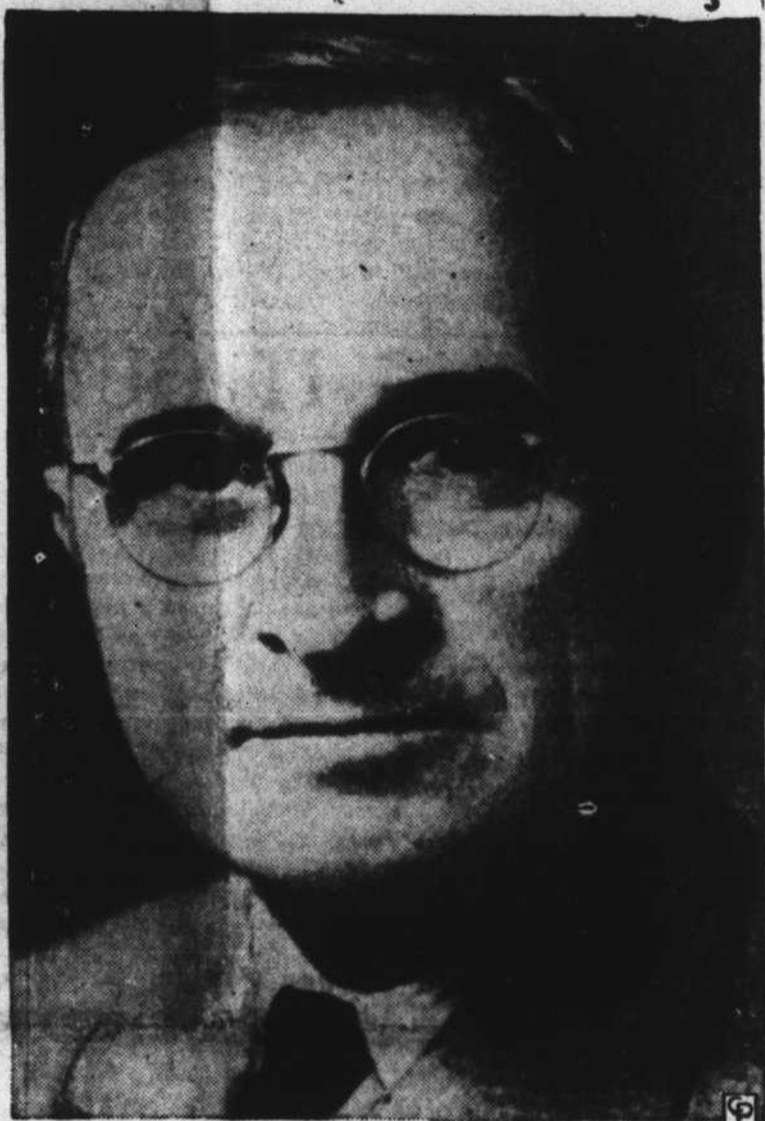
To the foregoing counter reply made by Representative Hunt for the Pulp Workers he is now awaiting a reply.

Mr. Hunt stated to a Labor Journal representative last night that the purpose of challenging Mr. Dillard to a debate was to give Mr. Dillard an opportunity to do his "name-calling" man to man, face to face. "He cannot defend 'Our

night she also conducted a meeting for the same purpose at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and a Charlotte Chapter was formed, with a steering committee, headed by Burke Davis, to work out the initial details after which time another meeting will be called and permanent local officers elected for the local chapter.

J. J. Thomas, president of the Firemen's Union, was present and made a brief talk, telling of a recent banquet which his local held and also of a demonstration which the Fire department put on at the Tower for the benefit of the public.

President Grooms Labor



PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Spatz Pays Tribute To Labor's Aid In Victory

Chicago.—High tribute to the powerful contribution made by American workers to the winning of the war was expressed by Gen. Carl Spaatz, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, before the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"During the war," he told the delegates, "there came overseas an unbroken flow of weapons and supplies. These were produced by American skill, muscles and brains. The American arsenal sustained us in battle; it saved the cause of democracy; it gave the sinews of life to the United Nations. That was the

impact of American free and highly skilled labor on our totalitarian enemies.

"We had good reason to know you were then on the job, sharing in our country's defense. We were glad then to feel your presence in every instrument, in every ton of war supplies. And I am glad to be with you now."

The United States, General Spaatz told the delegates, must never again be caught in a position where a surprise attack by another nation will see the enemy "knocking at our gates." Such a situation, he declared, (Continued on Page 3)

Central Labor Union Notes

Charlotte Central Labor Union held its regular weekly meeting Thursday night with President Hicks presiding and Secretary Efrid at his post. An enthusiastic meeting was had and the reports of the delegates showed much progress being made by local affiliated unions. Several brief addresses were made and reports from regular and special committees were heard.

Central Labor Union voted to contribute financially to the North Carolina Committee for Human Welfare, an affiliate of the Southern Human Welfare Conference. Miss Mary Price of the Carolina committee appeared before the meeting last week and explained the organization's activities. Last Friday

Strike Is Settled At Bost Plant

The strike of Carpenters at the plant of the Bost Building Equipment company of Charlotte has been settled between the Carpenters and Joiners of America and the company management, accord-

ing to a statement issued this week by Claude Nolan, business agent for the Charlotte Carpenters' local. The walkout occurred about (Continued on Page 4)

Green Says AFL Won't Join Groups Ruled By Dictators

Chicago.—Substandard wages and inflationary prices must be overcome and the key to this is full production. President Truman declared in a special message to the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Citing the "decisive part" which is labor's role in "this great moment of history," Mr. Truman said:

"There are those who doubt labor's motives and question labor's aims. Now, as always, the answer to that challenge must come from within the ranks of labor. I am confident that the delegates to this great convention will be eager to reply."

Mr. Truman's message was received by the convention shortly before AFL President William Green served emphatic notice on labor groups throughout the world that the AFL will continue to refuse participation in the world federation of trade unions because that organization embraces unions operated and dominated by totalitarian governments.

Other highlights of the current session included:

1. Stern warning by Joseph A. Padway, AFL general counsel, that antilabor forces are waging an increasingly vigorous campaign to wear down labor's rights to strike and bargain collectively, and that workers must be constantly on the alert to counter these moves.

2. Announcement by George L. Googe, director of the AFL campaign to enroll 1,000,000 more southern members, of enormous gains already recorded for workers in every southern state. These include increased wages, improved working conditions, shorter hours and extensive membership expansion.

3. A stirring tribute by Secretary of War Patterson to American labor for its great contribution to the winning of the war, a record which he declared he could never forget so long as he lives.

4. Declaration by General Carl Spaatz, commanding general of the army air forces, that the unbroken flow of weapons and supplies from American workers won the war and saved the cause of democracy.

5. Charges by John P. Froy, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, at a banquet of the Federation, that high communist officials were attempting to seize control of American labor and had even come to Chicago to observe the AFL convention to further this purpose.

Replying to an address by Thomas O'Brien, Member of Parliament and general secretary of

the British National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, who had appealed for AFL support of the WFTU, Mr. Green declared:

"We want our fraternal delegates to go back to Great Britain free from any doubt whatsoever of the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward this world federation of trade unions. Our federation is entirely in accord with the objectives of an international labor movement and from the very beginning has played a most important part in the development of the program of the International Labor Organization.

"We object to affiliation with this new world federation of trade unions because we are committed to the maintenance and establishment of freedom, liberty and democracy. We believe only in free democratic unions formed by the workers, maintained by the workers, officered by the workers and administered by the workers themselves.

"We are opposed to trade unions formed by a government, financed by a government, dominated by a government and controlled by a government. Because the new world federation of trade unions is not composed exclusively of free democratic unions, we refuse to become a part of that movement. We are not willing to jeopardize our freedom, liberty and democracy by associating our 7,100,000 members with a movement that runs the risk of having something voted upon us that originated in some country governed by a dictator."

Label Convention Gets Report On Elaborate Preparations For Show

Chicago.—Elaborate plans for the big Union Label exposition, opening October 29 in St. Louis, Mo., and extending through November 3, were announced at the opening session of the AFL Union Label Trades Department convention here.

Officers of the department stressed particularly in their reports the necessity of expanding recognition of the Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button as insurance of steadily improved living standards throughout the world.

"We must bear in mind that as our Nation attempts to build and further our international trade relations," the report of the officers said, "we will at the same time throw open the markets of America to the production centers of the world.

"This form of foreign competition is not an immediate threat to

American job opportunities, and our American standard of living, and will not become one for a few years to come. The situation, however, contains the very potent germ of a very great evil when the foreign countries return to normalcy and begin to reap the benefit of modern methods of production. It is then that we will be faced with portation facilities including air the Union Label, card and button must prove the defender of security and prosperity of our American workers."

Detailing the plans for the big St. Louis show, I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the department, told the delegates:

"This exhibition will be an All-American affair and one of the greatest events of its kind in the history of the American labor movement. It gives union manufacturers an opportunity to show (Continued on Page 4)

Truman Hopeful To Halt A Decline Of Workers' Earnings

Washington, D. C.—President Truman expressed grave fears that wages will decline still further in terms of purchasing and pledged the nation the Government will take every step to avert such a trend.

Discussing a wide variety of issues confronting the administration, the President declared the Government will wind up the present fiscal year in the black.

He was reminded of his previous estimate that this fiscal year, which ends June 30, would see a deficit of \$1,900,000,000. He replied that expenses have been cut by \$2,100,000,000.

One of the highlights of Mr. Truman's press conference was a statement embracing a report by Reconstruction Director Steelman on the Nation's economic health. This report contained a dual ap-

peal to labor and industry to ease up on wage and price increase demands "or face a boom and bust situation."

Emphasizing the unfortunate position in which the American worker finds himself today, Mr. Steelman's report said that real wages have dropped about one sixth in the last year. He said a married man with three dependents, for example, finds that \$36 he earned in 1945 now is worth only a little more than \$30 in things he buys. "This downward trend in real wages should be reversed," Steelman said.

The Government is doing everything it can, the President said, to keep prices from going up, but is limited in its tools in dealing with this situation.

However, the President told newsmen, he does not feel that (Continued on Page 4)