

Editorial

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THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN MUST VOTE

All members of organized labor should turn out in full force next Tuesday and cast their ballots for the candidates friendly to the workers of our community and district. The time is far spent when the working people of North Carolina can stay away from the polls and allow the other voters to shoulder the entire burden of naming public servants to office to serve all the peoples.

While Charlotte and Mecklenburg county are fortunate in this election by having splendid men running for the various offices the record shows that we have some men in public office who are not friendly toward the organized workers. This is true not only in the congressional families from our state but it is true with regards to our State Legislature.

Labor must be ever on the alert, for the reactionary groups. They will inflame a noble and well-meaning American press; they will lobby before the doors of the State and National Assemblies; they would stab you in the back to fulfill their own selfish desires. The woods are full of men of such character.

Is Labor going to dream while the evil-designers march into office and pass laws which dig deeply into its vitals, or is it going to walk uprightly to the polls and have a voice in the selection of those who are to serve the American people according to the Christian principles which are set forth to guide man to a better world?

The Nation is passing through perilous days. The reactionary groups are like unto barnacles that accumulate on a ship's hull. They cling to the Ship of Progress in the same manner and will multiply and grow, adding to the ship's deadweight unless scraped off and cast into the deep. In this modern day smart, broadminded men should be placed in public office—men who are mentally qualified to weigh both sides of any issue are vitally necessary. It is sible positions on the Ship of State. Labor has its duty to perform.

RETURN TO BASIC TRADE UNIONISM

"The time has come to return to the basic principles of trade unionism: the right to organize; the right to form unions of our own choosing; the right to bargain collectively; the right to refuse to work for unfair employers, and the right of government employees to organize," the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor declared recently in its Chicago meeting by adopting a report of its Committee on Resolutions on National Labor Policy.

The report of the committee said in part: "Nothing in the experience of the American Federation of Labor with wartime regulation of collective bargaining by the Federal Government justifies a departure from these basic principles. Nothing has occurred since the end of the war to justify delaying our immediate return to the freedom required by these principles. Immediate economic freedom is of utmost importance to the American Federation of Labor in particular and the American labor movement in general.

"Only after our freedom has been restored can there be any progress made toward the formulation of a national labor policy. Nor is there any reason to believe that such a policy will be established by so-called national conferences of labor and management. A truly national labor policy can best be obtained through the tried and tested procedures of collective bargaining between individual employers and industrial groups of organized workmen.

"In summary, therefore, it is the unanimous recommendation of your committee that positive steps be taken by the American Federation of Labor to free itself from the remnants of Federal regulation which was necessary only in time of war."

IS THE "OLD YELLOW DOG" RETURNING?

Affidavits which government workers now have to sign under the Ball-Russell appropriation bill anti-strike riders are written in language which "strongly resembles the language of the hateful yellow dog contracts of former times."

This was charged by Joseph A. Padway, American Federation of Labor general counsel, in an article headed: "Is the Government Adopting the Yellow Dog Contract," in the September issue of the Catering Industry Employee. Under these riders all government workers have to sign affidavits that they do not belong to any union recognizing the right to strike. Padway points out that "already some government employees have refused."

His article concludes: "Possibly, with the advent of the new Congress and a more constructive and reasonable approach to problems affecting labor, this type of backhanded legislation through appropriation bills will cease, and the present laws will not be revived at the end of the year."

Meanwhile Padway is negotiating with government agencies to make the language of the affidavits less objectionable. In his efforts Mr. Padway will receive the support of American labor as a whole. Lawmakers in Washington who supported the anti-strike riders to the Ball-Russell appropriation bill are in for no end of peaceful carrying-on so long as they are busy themselves with anti-labor legislation which affects 15,000,000 workers.

THE ARGUMENTS OF THE MAJOR PARTIES

DEMOCRATS

(Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, as the guest of AFL President William Green on a nation-wide radio hook-up devoted to labor issues, explains in the following address why he believes the interests of the American worker would best be served by voting a straight Democratic ticket in the November elections.)

Every two years at this time, the Republican Party tells labor what a great friend it has been of the working man. Yes, just at this time. Its spokesmen regularly inform the working man of the many things for which he can thank the Republicans.

Today I want to mention a few of the things that labor can thank the Republican Party for.

A wage-price stabilization program to protect the American people from inflation was formulated and put into effect by the Democratic Administration.

That program has been torpedoed. The destruction was accomplished under the leadership of the Republican Party in the Seventy-ninth Congress.

As a result, today labor can thank the Republican leaders for skyrocketing prices, and for higher costs all down the line of life's necessities.

Encouraged by this Republican victory over price control, the large owners of property in many parts of the country are renewing their demands to end rent control. To Republican prices they would now add Republican rent.

Actually, higher prices and higher rents are the equivalent of a major wage cut. For this wage cut, the working man can thank the Republican Party, which is always labor's friend at election time.

This was the first step: Break price control. Then, when the new limit for prices is the sky itself, take away from labor its right of collective bargaining, so that wages cannot keep up with prices. That is the second step. And already we are hearing demands for legislation that would make it impossible for the working man to seek an adjustment in wages to meet higher prices.

Where are these demands coming from? Who wants to end collective bargaining? Again, for the threat to take away from the working man his only protection against a wage cut—the right of collective bargaining—labor can thank the Republican Party.

Yes, labor's great friends—at election time—are on record against the Wagner Act. Oh, they don't want to kill the whole act! Do not misunderstand them. These Republicans only want to amend it a little—just enough to take off the right of collective bargaining.

If that could be accomplished, you would have the ideal Republican combination—Republican prices without a ceiling over them and Republican wages without a floor under them. Then labor's great friend, the Republican Party, would be happy.

What is the answer? Is it to surrender the standard of living of the American working man? Is it to put millions of dollars before millions of people? Or is it to elect a Congress that will fight to maintain and improve that standard?

Is it to re-elect the Republican members of the Seventy-ninth Congress who sabotaged stabilization and who now are ready to open up their attack on rent controls?

Or is labor's answer the replacement of those Republicans with men and women of the Democratic Party, the party that established the right of collective bargaining and that fought—and will continue to fight—to keep prices and rents at fair levels?

Yes. With a keen appreciation of what has been done, by the Republicans, the working man will go to the polls on November 5 and vote Democratic.

REPUBLICANS

(As the guest of AFL President William Green on a nation-wide radio hook-up devoted to labor issues, Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, in the following address, expounds his views of why the American worker should support the Republican ticket in the approaching election.)

The Republican Party stands unalterably for the American enterprise system of free labor and free management—the system which has made the American standard of living the highest in the world. The Republican Party is unalterably opposed to the efforts of the Communistic and radical elements in this country to weaken and destroy our representative form of government and to make America over into some sort of totalitarian or socialized state.

The officials of the American Federation of Labor are fully appreciative of the fact that without a free and representative form of government we cannot for long have free labor; and that both the liberty and dignity of the individual will be destroyed. In the last few days we have had conclusive proof that the Moscow dictatorship which enslaves Soviet Russia is seeking to control the results of the coming November election and bring about the defeat of Republican candidates for Congress.

In an impudent English language broadcast by Radio Moscow last Sunday night, Americans were urged to elect only candidates who were endorsed by the CIO—Political Action Committee. A Soviet spokesman insisted that the election of a Republican Congress would mean the end of democracy in America. Of course he used the word "democracy" in its Communist sense. Under the Soviet system of so-called democracy there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, no freedom of collective bargaining, no freedom to strike or even freedom of thought. That is the kind of democracy that the Soviet government wants to see established in the United States. As the best means to obtain it they are supporting the Administration-sponsored candidates endorsed by the CIO—Political Action Committee.

However, we do not have to go to Moscow for evidence that the Democrat Administration now in power is the enemy of free labor. On three occasions—in 1944, 1945 and again in 1946—a Democrat President has asked the Congress for power to draft workers for forced labor. It is inconceivable to me that American labor will support an administration which has sponsored such proposals violating every principle of constitutional government and every decent instinct of the American people.

The Republican Party came into being to abolish human slavery. It has never departed from that principle and it never will. Economic slavery means human slavery and political slavery. Through a resolution recently adopted by the federation's annual convention and statements made by President Green and the Executive Council his great organization has expressed its determination to continue the fight to protect labor against the subversive elements wishing to destroy it. The Republican Party has the same great objective. The Republican candidates are pledged to that cause.

I am convinced that the American Federation of Labor and the millions of workers it represents can best assure continuation of the governmental principles in which they believe by supporting and aiding the Republican Party and its candidates for the Congress on Election Day—November 5th.

I can assure you that when the Republicans take control of Congress the legislative program will not be dictated or controlled from abroad and that American labor will receive a square deal. Remember there are no Communists in the Republican Party.

CONCORD WORKERS SET RECORD

Washington, D. C. — The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department has announced that cotton mill workers in the Concord area of North Carolina, at 85 cents an hour, were the highest in April of this year than average hourly earnings have ever been in the textile industry.

According to the report, the Spartanburg workers in South Carolina averaged 81.3, which was the highest hourly average for any South Carolina center.

Uncle Sam Says



Any number of my young nephews today dream of hanging the ball out of the park in a World Series. A big-league baseball career is a fine future for any American boy, but so is a career as a lawyer, a doctor, an engineer or some other profession. The big leaguers among dads know that it costs money to give their sons the opportunity for a great career. By investing every pay day in United States Savings Bonds, any dad can give Junior a good start in life. Yes, Savings Bonds are in the big league class. Buy an extra Savings Bond today. U. S. Treasury Department

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