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**Working For A Better Understanding Between  
North Carolina AFL Unions and Employers 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.

# Charlotte Labor Journal

*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.*

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## MINERS CHALLENGE INJUNCTION AT TRIAL Labor Commissioner Talks At Tri-State Meeting Here

### Courtroom Is Packed As Spectators Await Mine Strike Decision

Washington, D. C.—Before a packed Federal courtroom, with the eyes of the entire nation intent on the outcome, attorneys for the United Mine Workers Union challenged the Government's legal right to force the union by injunction to stop the coal strike.

The proceedings at the opening hearing before Federal Judge Goldsborough were brief and inconclusive. The Judge, himself, engaged in a rambling dissertation on the case and then postponed trial of the issues until November 27.

At that time Lewis appeared with his lawyers before Judge Goldsborough's court and defended the mine union's action on the basis of the Norris-LaGuardia act's terms, which the Mine Workers claim forbids the issuance of injunctions in strike cases. The trial lasted for the day and was postponed until Friday, November 29, at which time Judge Goldsborough is to impanel a jury and hear the case. The jury will decide: 1, Whether the injunction Judge Goldsborough issued calling on UMW President John L. Lewis to withdraw his formal notice on November 15 that the union's contract with the Interior Department had been terminated, was legal. 2, Whether Mr. Lewis and other union officials are guilty of contempt of court for failing to heed the injunction. 3, If the court upholds the legality of the original, temporary injunction, it will then have to be decided whether the injunction should be made permanent.

Attorneys for the Government and for the union got short shrift from Judge Goldsborough at the opening hearing. Once the Judge realized that the union intended to contest the legality of the entire proceedings, he postponed further argument until the November 27 trial. But the Judge did not stop there. He launched into a speech of his own.

Summarizing the position of both sides, he said the Government says the defendants have not obeyed the restraining order, while the defendants maintain categorically that they have done nothing since the termination of the Krug-Lewis contract.

"That is equivalent to saying they have not obeyed the restraining order," he added, "but, then they say they do not have to obey the restraining order as it is not legal."

The Judge remarked that there seems to be no legal precedent for the current proceedings.

"I don't think a situation like this has ever confronted society before, or confronted a court before—I never heard of one," he said.

Continuing, Judge Goldsborough discussed the effects of the situation on the nation, on the union and on labor in general. He even threw in a few remarks about capitalism and Karl Marx and the possibility that Congress may proceed to enact legislation

"that will set labor back many years."

Then, half to himself and half to the courtroom, the Judge concluded his remarks by saying:

"I do not know whether I was justified in making that statement. It was extrajudicial."

Meanwhile, the coal mining stoppage throughout the nation remained 100 per cent effective. Without receiving any orders from the union, without a single picket line around any coal pit, the 400,000 bituminous miners voluntarily stayed away from their jobs in a demonstration unmatched in labor's history.

Newspaper reporters, interviewing coal miners and their families in the coal regions, wrote stories to the effect that the miners are determined to go through with their fight for a better contract and that any attempt by the Government to jail Mr. Lewis or to fine the union will only intensify their determination to stay out.

Throughout the nation, coal conservation orders were put into effect by Federal, State and local officials. It was estimated that the supply of coal above ground would be sufficient to cover the essential needs of the nation for more than 30 days.

However, many manufacturing enterprises, especially the steel mills, which are huge consumers of coal, and the railroads, immediately started cutting back their operations and, as a result, many thousands of workers were forced into temporary idleness.

It was the consensus in Washington that, barring some sudden move to break the deadlock on the part of the Government or the union, the legal proceedings undertaken by the Department of Justice will drag on for a long time. Meanwhile, no coal was in prospect of being mined.

**Editor's Note:** During the Thanksgiving holiday reports coming out of Washington say that the Mine Owners have offered to negotiate with the Miners Union, offering some concessions over previous contracts in the way of shorter hours. However, this could not be confirmed as The Journal goes to press.

### TWA PILOTS AGREE TO ARBITRATION PLAN BY THREE-MAN BOARD

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of the Air Line Pilots' association (AFL), after a nine-hour conference with the National Mediation board, agreed to submit their pay and working rules dispute to a three-man arbitration board.

Under the terms of the truce, pilots agreed to return to work, ending a stoppage which began October 21 and which brought to a halt operations of the Trans World Air Line spread over three continents.

The issues confronting the arbitration panel are rates of pay for pilots and co-pilots flying domestic and international routes, minimum monthly pay for pilots in the international service, flight time limitation for pilots in the international service and a new plan of bidding procedure for runs.

President David L. Behncke of the Pilots' Union said every effort would be made to restore normal operations quickly. As to the arbitration agreement, Mr. Behncke said the pilots were "following their traditional methods of dispute settlement, which is to work while they talk."

### 8,000 AMPUTEES SEEK CARS

Washington, D. C.—Eight thousand amputee veterans filed applications for free automobiles in the first four weeks of the car-for-amputees program, it was announced by the Veterans administration.

### WITH LOCAL UNIONS

#### NO CLU MEET THIS WEEK

The regular Thursday night meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union was postponed this week due to the holiday falling on Thursday night. The next meeting will be held on Thursday night of next week at 7:30 in Labor Temple, 317 1-2 North Tryon. Delegates from all affiliated locals are urged to be present.

#### PRINTERS MEET SUNDAY

The regular monthly meeting of Charlotte Typographical Union No. 338 will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Labor Temple, 317 1-2 North Tryon street.

### RETAIL STORE SALES

#### TAKE LEAP UPWARD

Washington, D. C.—An estimate from the Department of Commerce shows that retail store sales during September were \$8,203,000,000. This figure is 28 per cent higher than in September of 1945, but 2 per cent below last August, after adjustment for seasonal factors and the difference in the number of shopping days.

The estimate shows that total retail sales in the three months ending September 30 set a record quarterly high, 31 per cent above the second quarter this year after seasonal adjustment. The chief factor, however, was the rise in prices, the department stated.

### INCREASED EXEMPTIONS OF TAXES URGED BY AFL COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Washington, D. C.—Increased exemptions for persons with incomes below \$3,000 was demanded in a report by a special AFL Committee on Taxation headed by AFL Vice President Matthew Woll.

"Any tax relief program initiated by the next session of Congress should place primary emphasis on elimination of burdensome excise taxes on essential goods and services and the need for raising exemptions for those in the low-income bracket, particularly that group with incomes below \$3,000," Mr. Woll said following the committee session.

"Elimination of wartime controls of prices and wages re-emphasizes the need for tax relief for the many thousands of Americans who are paying heavy taxes out of below-subsistence incomes."

Mr. Woll told newsmen that the committee approved adoption of exemptions of \$1,500 for single persons, \$2,500 for married couples, and \$500 for each dependent.

At the same time the committee made a strong demand for elimination of war-created agencies, bureaus and unnecessary personnel in all Government departments as an immediate and necessary economy measure. A report of the committee, however, pointed out that while all unnecessary expenditures should be curtailed, it is essential that revenue to support all legitimate governmental activities and necessary Federal assistance for Federal (Continued On Page 4)

### Forrest Shuford Says Strikes Will Not Destroy U.S. System

"It is possible for strikes to attain such size and scope as to impair seriously our capitalistic system, but I do not believe that this will occur," Forrest H. Shuford, State Labor Commissioner, told delegates to the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Carolinas-Virginia Purchasing Agents association here last Friday.

Delivering a prepared speech on the "Economic Effects of Strikes," Shuford told the purchasing agents that "It is popular now to blame everything on strikes, just as it was an easy way out during the war years to blame everything on the war."

"As a matter of fact," the Commissioner continued, "production is greater now in nearly all fields of endeavor than it has ever been before in years of peace. Scarcity of articles is chiefly the result of the great, pent-up demand brought on by years of war. Many people believe that they cannot get an automobile because of strikes. This is not altogether the case. The automobile industry has been unable to procure enough steel to operate at capacity because practically every industry is using more steel today than ever before due to the greater demand for consumer goods of all kinds."

"Much more production is lost from accidents, both on and off the job, than has ever been lost because of strikes."

There are strikes other than those by industrial workers, Shuford declared. "We have heard a great deal about buyers' strikes when prices get too high on certain articles. We have heard much also about strikes by manufacturers who withhold their goods from the market because they cannot get the price for their product which they desire."

Concerning the recent strike of seamen against the wage order of the Wage Stabilization Board, Shuford said that "Since the only commodity which a

worker has is his labor, was it not natural for the seaman to feel that he had as much right to withhold his product—his labor—for a higher price as the meat producers had to withhold their products from the market for a higher price in opposition to the price-fixing of OPA and the Decontrol board?"

The Commissioner pointed out that reconversion to peacetime production has brought relatively few strikes in North Carolina. "The textile industry, with one or two exceptions, has been practically free of strikes during the past year or so. Yet it has been harder to buy shirts and sheets since the war ended than it was before."

Shuford declared that "Nobody wants to strike" because the workers lose pay, management and stockholders lose profits, the unions lose dues and spend money for employe relief, and everybody feels the effects of a stoppage of production.

"Like other clashes of force between groups, strikes could be disastrous to the capitalistic system which is the basis of the greatest economic development experienced by any country in the world," he said. "But I cannot see any signs on the horizon which indicate that there is any probability of this country being engulfed in any such serious work stoppages. Our past experiences does not lead us to any such conclusions. An overwhelming majority of employers, workers, and labor leaders in America are much too intelligent, tolerant, and patriotic to be led astray by any foreign 'ism' which would tear down our economic system."

For better relations between management and labor, Shuford suggested that the two groups try to apply the Golden Rule in their dealings with each other. "The interest of the worker is so integrated with the interest of the employer that it cannot be segregated. Every employe is an individual human being and cannot be handled on a mass production basis."

### AFL ASKS FOR PUNISHMENT OF THUGS

George L. Googe,

Southern Director of

the American Federation

of Labor, has

called for full punishment

of the thugs responsible

for the brutal attack upon

an AFL organizer, who

is shown on a hospital

bed at the right with

Mr. Googe sitting beside

him.

The attack upon the

Georgia organizer is

one of the most dastardly

crimes in the

history of the Southern

Labor movement.



"DEMOCRACY" IN UPSON COUNTY, GA.—Robert Walk, UMW Organizer, tells George Googe, AFL Southern Campaign Director how he was beaten almost to death by a goon-squad last week near the Old Thomaston Mill while organizing textile workers. More than 40 stitches were taken in Walk's head. He was blackjacked, kicked and knifed to near death. Calling on local, state and federal enforcement agencies to "vigorously prosecute" the thugs.

**Give Savings Bonds**

**22 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT FOR XMAS**