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

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.



"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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GREEN ASKS AFL MEMBERS TO BATTLE ANTI-LABOR BILLS

Cites Growing Threats To Weaken Unions By Curbing Rights

Washington, D. C. — Grave warning that influences are at work throughout the Nation to curtail labor's freedom and seriously shackle workers' constitutional liberties was sounded by AFL President William Green in a letter to the officers of all State Federations, city central bodies and directly affiliated AFL unions.

Taking full cognizance of increasing demands in recent months for legislation to sharply curb operations of labor unions in expanding, entering collective bargaining conferences and improving the conditions of their members, Mr. Green declared:

"I greatly fear attempts will be made to change the Wagner Labor Relations Act, modify the Norris-La Guardia Act, make illegal union shop agreements, restrict the exercise of the right to strike, subject workers to civil suits for damages for participation in strikes in alleged violation of contracts, and, in addition, enact further objectionable labor legislation similar to the notorious Case Bill, which was passed by the last session of Congress."

Declaring that, unfortunately, a large number of Congress members who voted for such measures at the last session were returned with greater strength in the November elections, Mr. Green asserted:

"I deem it my duty to report to the membership of the American Federation of Labor the legislative outlook for labor during the 80th Congress is a matter of deep concern. We will do everything that lies within our power to prevail upon the members of Congress to vote against and oppose objectionable antilabor legislation, but the facts are that we must deal with the antilabor and reactionary members of Congress, elected by the voters, who pass upon legislation vitally affecting labor at this coming session of Congress."

"Because of my apprehension and feeling of deep concern over the situation, I am addressing you this communication, earnestly requesting the officers of your organization and the members of the American Federation of Labor in the locality in which your organization functions, to communicate with your representatives in Congress protesting against the enactment of anti-labor legislation and requesting them to stand by labor and vote against anti-labor legislation."

Mr. Green, alerting the entire Federation of Labor on this issue, declared his firm belief the voice of every member should be raised in vigorous protest against proposals that would weaken their cause, and that only by such action could they be certain their representatives were fully conversant with their strong views.

"Please remember that every working man and woman and every member of organized labor will be affected deeply by such antilabor legislation," he said. "That means, in communicating with those who represent you in Congress, you are appealing in behalf of yourself as well as your fellow workers in all sections of the country."

Lowell, Mass.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers has signed a contract with the Synthetic Yarns, Inc. It is retroactive to October 14 and provides a 70-cents-an-hour minimum, and also calls for a 2 per cent vacation fund financed by the company for those employed from three months to five years and a 5 per cent fund for those employed five years or more.



TEXT OF PRESIDENT GREEN'S STATEMENT

Washington, D. C.—The complete letter sent by AFL President William Green to the officers of all State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies and directly affiliated bodies follows:

The 80th Congress will convene in Washington, D. C., beginning January 3, 1947. It is reported that the Members of Congress will be called upon to give consideration to highly objectionable antilabor legislation. Such legislation, if enacted into law, would vitally affect the economic interests and well being of the workers of the nation, as well as their freedom and the exercise of all their rights under the Constitution of the United States. I am confident attempts will be made to limit and curtail the exercise of the legitimate functions of labor organizations.

I greatly fear attempts will be made to change the Wagner Labor Relations Act, modify the Norris-La Guardia Act, make illegal union shop agreements, restrict the exercise of the right to strike, subject workers to civil suits for damages for participation in strikes in alleged violation of contracts and, in addition, enact further objectionable labor legislation similar to the notorious Case Bill which was passed at the last session of Congress.

Unfortunately a large number of Congressmen who voted in favor of the passage of the Case Bill at the last session of Congress were re-elected by increased majorities. They will accept their elections as a vindication of their action and as endorsement of the votes they cast in favor of the Case Bill.

I deem it my duty to report to the membership of the American Federation of Labor the legislative outlook for labor during the 80th Congress is a matter of deep concern. We will do everything that lies within our power to prevail upon the Members of Congress to vote against and oppose objectionable antilabor legislation, but the facts are that we must deal with the antilabor and reactionary Members of Congress, elected by the voters, who will pass upon legislation vitally affecting labor at this coming session of Congress. Because of my apprehension and feeling of deep concern over the situation, I am addressing you

this communication, earnestly requesting the officers of your organization and the members of the American Federation of Labor in the locality in which your organization functions, to communicate with your representatives in Congress protesting against the enactment of anti-labor legislation and requesting them to stand by labor and vote against anti-labor legislation.

The voice of labor should be heard by the Members of Congress. They should know of your feelings of deep concern and particularly that you are alert—that you will watch how they vote and if they vote for anti-labor legislation, they cannot expect the support of labor in the event they are candidates for re-election to Congress.

Please bear in mind that every working man and woman and every member of organized labor will be affected deeply by such anti-labor legislation. That means in communicating with those who represent you in Congress, you will be appealing in behalf of yourself as well as your fellow workers in all sections of the country.

I respectfully urge you to carry out the suggestions and recommendations herein made immediately. Keep informed as to the action of your representatives in Congress, communicate with them immediately urging them to stand by labor in the exercise of its right to join and maintain unions and to enjoy in full the freedom and liberty guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

25,000 MINERS REAFFILIATE
Chicago—Twenty-five thousand Illinois miners, members of 165 United Mine Workers local unions associated with the AFL have reaffiliated with the Illinois State Federation of Labor, Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation, announced. He said he sent a "welcome back" message to Hugh White of Springfield, Ill., president of District 31, UMW-AFL.

MEAT SUPPLY INCREASES
Washington, D. C.—During November a gain of 100 million pounds in cold stocks of meat brought the nation's meat supply closer to normal, according to a report from the Department of Agriculture.

LABOR—U. S. A.

The twenty-fourth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

LABOR'S STAKE IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS

By William Green, AFL President
The American people tomorrow will observe the 155th anniversary of the establishment of the Bill of Rights, their most precious possession.

Our country has been blessed with material wealth. No other land enjoys in such full measure the abundance of food, the tremendous industrial productivity and the military might of America. But the great factor which has kept us strong as a nation, which has guided our people along the path of peace and progress and which inspires even the humblest citizen with an unconquerable spirit of independence is our common heritage of this Bill of Rights.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution have come to be known as the Bill of Rights because they protect the personal liberties of every American from invasion by anyone—even the Government. Foremost of these liberties, of course, are freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of assemblage. Also included are protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the right of a fair trial to the accused, and a prohibition against excessive fines and cruel and inhuman punishments.

These rights cannot be denied to the man in overalls any more than they can be denied to the millionaire. In the course of our national history, the working people of America have been forced from time to time to invoke the Bill of Rights to save themselves from oppression and degradation.

The courts have held that the freedom of speech and the freedom of press include the right to picket peacefully, because that is the way by which workers who are striking against injustice can

inform their fellow citizens of the justice of their cause. The freedom of assemblage has frequently protected workers from intimidation and physical violence.

In my opinion, another important amendment to the Constitution—the thirteenth—deserves to be included in the Bill of Rights. This amendment prohibits the existence of slavery or involuntary servitude in the United States or its territories, except as a punishment for crime.

We hear a great deal these days about plans by the next Congress for the enactment of anti-labor legislation. Let me serve notice, here and now, that the American Federation of Labor will resist with all its power any legislation which transgresses the Bill of Rights or violates the Thirteenth Amendment.

These basic rights must be kept inviolate or the entire American way of life will be destroyed. In fact, the trade union movement firmly believes in the expansion of human freedoms, rather than their repression. In the recent past, we fought and won the battle for social security to banish the fear of destitution in old age.

Every day of our existence we are battling to end the fear of poverty which comes from sub-standard wages. Beyond these efforts, the American Federation of Labor has proposed to the United Nations the adoption of an International Bill of Rights, so that the people of all the world can enjoy the freedoms which the people of the United States proudly possess and will never surrender.

PEACE IN THE POWER INDUSTRY

By A. L. Wegener, Assistant to the President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
In an effort to explore the possibilities of dealing with labor relations in the vital utility of the nation by voluntary union-management co-operation, Edgar L. Warren, Director of the United States Conciliation Service, invited both sides into a special conference here in Washington this week.

I attended the conference in (Continued on Page 5)

Christmas Medley

Christmas was once abolished by an act of parliament in England. That was in 1644 when the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell governed the realm. The Puritans' disbelief in holiday enjoyments was so intense that parliament ordered Christmas to be observed as a strict fast day. No roast beef, no plum pudding, no wassail were permitted.

Although turkey is the essential feature of Christmas dinner today, the bird was unknown in England in the 16th century. Introduced from America, it came into its present popularity in the early 1700s.

In several states of the Union there is a definite law forbidding anyone from interfering with a child's belief in Santa Claus.

Some European peoples have a superstition—dating from ancient times—that animals take on the power of speech at Christmas time.

Lewis Carroll wrote his famous book, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," as a Christmas gift for a little girl who was the daughter of one of his friends.

CARPENTERS WIN ELECTION IN ELIZABETH CITY PLANT

Raleigh, AFL Office. — The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America won an election for collective bargaining rights Thursday, December 5, in the Mengel Veneer Company plant at Elizabeth City, which affects about 200 workers.

The election was won after several weeks of organization work directed from the office of North Carolina Federation of Labor by Representative A. E. Brown, who is in charge of the Raleigh office. Mr. Brown was assisted in this work by AFL Representative A. R. Kemp, who is attached to the office of Director Earl R. Britton in Charlotte.

The union representatives report that they received considerable opposition to their efforts from various sources in Elizabeth City during the process of organizing the workers in the veneer plant, especially from adverse publicity appearing in a local newspaper there, in which it endeavored to inject the racial issue, pitting the white workers against the colored. This seems to be a policy throughout the South where unionization of workers is involved.

In the issue of Sunday, Dec. (Continued on Page 8)

UNITED MINE WORKERS VICTORIOUS TWICE IN APPEALS ON CASES OF BIG IMPORT

Washington, D. C.—The United Mine Workers and its president, John L. Lewis, scored two important points in high courts here when the U. S. Supreme Court agreed to hear and broaden consideration of their appeals from contempt of court citations and the U. S. Court of Appeals upheld the right of foremen to unionize.

Though union counsel were highly gratified by the Supreme Court decision to grant writs of certiorari in the contempt case, involving fines slightly in excess of \$3,500.00, they appeared equally pleased with the lower appellate court's finding in the foremen's case.

The foremen's case had its origin when foremen in four mines run by Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation joined the United Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Employees, a division of UMW's District 50. Hearings and an election were held by the National Labor Relations Board. After the Government took over the mines, during the strike last spring, NLRB certified the UMW unit as bargaining agent for the foremen. Admiral Ben Moreell, as Coal Mines Administrator, made a contract with the UMW, covering foremen's hours, wages and the like, for the period the Government held the mines.

Jones & Laughlin took the issue to court to block the contract, but Justice Bennet C. Clark said in his opinion that the deal was perfectly legal. Justices Henry W. Edgerton and E. Barrett Prettyman joined in the opinion.

Clark said that as long as the Government ran the coal mines it had the same right as any other employer to bargain with the workers, and that Moreell had done no more than that.

Under the Supreme Court ruling, it appeared that nearly the entire coal injunction case would be heard at a hearing set for Tuesday, January 14.

The fines upon the union and Mr. Lewis were imposed after the union declared, through its president, that the Government contract with the union was no longer in effect after Interior Secretary Krug declined to enter discussions of bettering conditions. The Federal Court directed that the miners be ordered to return, and imposed the penalties when they did not do so.

The original appeal was based on the question of whether the Norris-LaGuardia Act prevents the Government from fighting strikes with court orders. Union counsel then raised 10 points of their own declaring the lower court's order violated the Constitution, the fine excessive and the procedure faulty.

LARGE WHEAT EXPORTS

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Department of Agriculture has just reported export allocations of approximately 28 million bushels of wheat, corn and other grains for January, 1947. Among the principal countries to whom grain has been allocated are:

United Kingdom, the U. S. U. K. zone in Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, the French zone of Germany, Austria, Mexico, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Switzerland and China. The allocations to Austria, China, Greece and Italy are through U. N. R. R. A. Miscellaneous allocations total 13,000 tons of wheat and corn.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.