

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

Unionists, Do Everything Within Your Power To
Aid in the Southern A. F. L. Membership Drive

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 to-
day, and any man who
tries to injure a labor pa-
per 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.

VOL. XVI; NO. 37

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1947

Subscription \$2.00 Per Year

Green Urges Bargaining Instead Of Portal Pay Suits

GUIDE ISSUED BY AFL TO
ALL ITS UNIONS ON
PORTAL QUESTION

Washington, D. C.—Collective bargaining between labor and management, rather than court actions for portal-to-portal pay or punitive legislation, is the real key to understanding in the field of labor relations, the American Federation of Labor declared in messages to its affiliates throughout the Nation and in a formal presentation before the special Senate Judiciary sub-committee weighing bills to outlaw portal pay suits.

Breaking a long silence on the portal pay issue, AFL President William Green warned that appeal to the courts, before exhaustion of "all the voluntary means of resolving differences between unions and employers regarding wages, hours and working conditions, invites invasion of the right of labor and management to contract about their affairs."

"Such untimely and unwarranted resort to administrative or judicial intervention is inconsistent with the mutual rights and responsibilities established by employers and unions through private contract in a free society," he added.

Mr. Green, whose letter was accompanied by an official AFL statement on travel time, to aid national and international unions in determining their course of action in regard to the portal pay issue, cited that few of the portal pay suits had been instigated by AFL unions and expressed deep satisfaction that AFL affiliates, generally, concurred in his belief that best understandings could be reached "over the collective bargaining table."

Mr. Green's declaration was strongly supported by the International Teamsters, whose executive board, meeting in Miami, adopted a resolution declaring the Teamsters would not make any claim for portal pay. The resolution declared that the only ones entitled to the portal pay were the miners, who "were sustained in their claim by the highest court in the land." The resolution also declared that such a demand by others "is not morally justified, because it was not agreed to in the contracts signed by these unions of the CIO and their employers."

Meanwhile, Walter Mason, a legislative representative of the AFL, appearing before the Senate subcommittee weighing this issue, vigorously opposed bills for changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act.

He discussed particularly the Wiley and Capehart measures. Enactment of such proposals, he declared, would "place the American workers back several generations to the time when they were paid by the day, regardless of the number of hours worked."

The Federation, he emphasized, had pioneered for nearly a half century for the Fair Labor Standards Act. He said:

"It has offered to millions of unfortunate victims an opportunity to rise to industrial citizenship, or, in other words, a chance, through unionization, to attain collective bargaining with their employers and thus achieve industrial emancipation."

"We are proud of this achievement, but feel that we should be considering today legislation that would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage standards and to strengthen the law by broadening the scope of its coverage to include millions of workers still excluded from its benefits, who now are working under conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum

LABOR—U. S. A.

NO. 3
Are We Making Progress Toward
World Peace

Washington, D. C.—Spokesmen for labor, commerce, farmers, and Government agreed in a broadcast over the facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting System Sunday that the world has been making definite progress toward peace and that these steps will be increasingly implemented as the United States is able to further relieve physical hunger and strengthen its spiritual leadership.

Speaking on the "American United" program, more commonly known as "Cross Section—AFL," the participants included Nelson Cruikshank of the AFL, Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, President pro tempore of the Senate, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and member of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations; Albert Goss, master of the National Grange, and William R. Castle of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Declaring that "we are definitely making progress toward world peace, Senator Vandenberg struck the keynote of the discussion when he told the radio audience: "The Balkan and Italian treaties will be signed tomorrow. The German and Austrian treaties are on the way. Disarmament is being seriously studied."

"While the United Nations is only one year old, its Security Council already has tempered several situations which easily could have precipitated armed conflict under the old order, and the General Assembly already has initiated powerful movements which promise vital contribution toward the substitution of justice for force in our pursuit of a free world of free men."

"I have no illusions that 'All's well'; nor that the United Nations must not continue to build its moral authority all round the world, before peace and security are successfully guaranteed."

"But neither have I any illusions that we should not already be in serious friction and turmoil in this restless and unhappy world if it were not for the United Nations."

"So I unequivocally say: 'Yes, we are making progress.' And we Americans must give this great adventure every support at our command."

Asked for labor's views on pro-

gress toward world peace, Mr. Cruikshank replied: "We feel there is definite progress, though we recognize that there are very serious problems confronting the nations of the world today. At Paris I saw a very hopeful sign: evidence that the educators, scientists and artists are coming out of their secluded little worlds. They recognized during the war that ideas were weapons, and now they seem to be recognizing that ideas also are tools. They are tools that can be used toward building the defenses of peace."

"We believe we are on the way to rectifying some of the basic errors that were made following the last World War. We believe that the organization of 'free trade unions' in the economies of the countries of Europe can make a very definite contribution to the development of democratic political life in these countries. We have full-time representatives in Europe now working along that line."

"We want to see free trade unions developed in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the occupied territories and France. We think that can make a real contribution, and we want to help all of us."

Goss said he believed the farmers could make an invaluable contribution to peace by helping to feed Europe's hungry, and that they are bending every effort to do this.

"We are thinking in terms of feeding the world, and in this we have some tremendous problems," he said. "That, to us, is our big contribution to world peace, and we think that, instead of curtailing production, our remedy is in getting the food where it is needed, and in helping other nations build up."

Castle, former Under Secretary of State and a former U. S. Ambassador to Japan, said the Chamber firmly believes in sound international co-operation.

"We feel, in the Chamber," he added, "that one of the strongest arguments for peace is to feed the hungry. Therefore, we supported UNRRA completely and we believe that when UNRRA ceases, the United States should take the lead in supplying the hungry people of the world with food. They are not going to be peaceful when they are hungry."

Women's Clothes Prices Expected To Drop Soon

Washington, D. C.—A welcome note in the situation of rising retail prices was sounded here by a Government expert who predicted that clothing for women would soon undergo a slash of as much as 50 per cent in some items.

He added regretfully that he could not foresee any important drop in the price of men's clothing. The only major decline in prices of men's supplies is indicated in sports shirts, said Theodore G. Maynard, chief of the clothing branch of the textile division of the Office of Temporary Controls.

He pointed out that "pre-Christmas clearance sales have taken place in some stores" and said that was "unprecedented." Womens dresses, coats, suits, fur coats, and other articles are, or soon will be, on the way down in price, he prophesied.

Another Government economist expects a general drop in prices within the next six months—and said it could start soon. People do not seem to be buying as many Christmas presents this year as last — although the increase in prices makes the total dollar volume greater, he said.

Maynard said there has been heavy overproduction of women's clothing due to the fact that high prices kept the ladies from buying, plus a mild winter which discouraged purchases of winter clothes.

Probable changes in styles, due to the lifting of fashion restrictions, will make manufacturers and dealers all of the more anxious to unload, he said.

Other merchandise will come down, too, Maynard believes. He said that costume jewelry already (Please Turn To Page 4)

Atomic Trades Unit Signs Oak Ridge Plant

Atlanta, Ga. — Announcement was made here by George L. Googe, chairman of the AFL Southern Organizing Campaign, of an agreement between the Monsanto Chemical Co., and the AFL Atomic Trades and Labor Council, covering the employes of the Clinton Laboratories at Oak Ridge, Tenn., which the Monsanto Co. operates for the Government. The Clinton Laboratories is the world's foremost nuclear energy research project.

The articles of agreement are embodied in a formal collective bargaining contract now before the War Department and Atomic Commission for approval. The union wage increases from 6 to 20 cents an hour. The 6-cent increase affects top pay group, hourly rates range from an 82 1-2 cent minimum for janitors and unskilled laborers to \$2.02 1-2 for electronic instrument mechanics. The rate for journeymen mechanics in practically all other occupations is \$1.78 1-2 an hour. There are 21 job classifications. There is a

provision barring work stoppages, lockouts and slowdowns. The union is recognized as the exclusive bargaining agent. There is a maintenance of membership provision with a voluntary dues check-off irrevocable for the period of the contract. This clause further provides that a 15-day period immediately preceding the first anniversary date of the agreement shall constitute an "escape period" for union membership and dues deduction. The grievance procedure is on a four-step basis, with close time limits at each level, with the final

decision point reached in the total of seven days. The agreement provides six members each and the union is entitled to divide this representation equally between regular employes of the company and the representatives of the union or its affiliates. Two weeks' vacation is allowed employes in continuous service for one year or longer on April 1. The contract also covers such matters as jurisdictional disputes, apprenticeship, time off for voting, shift pay, disability pay— (Continued on Page 3)

Elections Won Green Pledges Farm Union Co-Operation

The following Labor Board elections held recently were won by A. F. of L. unions

West Texas Cotton Oil Co., Abilene, Texas.

Wilson Company, Inc., Abilene, Texas.

Hygeia Ice & Fuel Plant, Spartanburg, S. C.

Dixie Paint and Varnish Company, Brunswick, Ga.

Meagel Company, Elizabeth City, N. C.

The election of the Kirby Lumber Company, Silsbee, Texas, was indeterminate in results. The United Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners, A.F.L., received 573 votes, the C.I.O. 482, no union 117, and 30 challenged ballots. There will be a run-off election in this case.

The American Federation of Musicians has signed a contract with traveling road shows. It was signed at Albany, Georgia. Musicians under the contract re-

ceived a raise to \$60.00 a week from \$30.00 and the Band Leader to \$85.00 a week from \$45.00.

William K. Stevens of the American Federation of Musicians handled this matter, assisted by Organizer Anthony of the Georgia Federation of Labor and Organizer Reese of the Southern A. F. L. staff.

Organizer Bain reports from Arkansas the filing of a petition for an election at the Brown Payne Lumber Company, Little Rock. Also the installation of a local of the Coopers Union at Hope, Ark. The new local has over 100 members.

Organizer Snowden reports a new Carpenters local set-up at Bogalusa, La.

Organizer G. D. Dunham of the Georgia Federation of Labor negotiated a contract for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (Millmen) with the Atlanta Oak Flooring Co., Atlanta.

Washington, D. C.—America is on the march, and, though for the moment the pendulum seems to have swung backward, this is only a temporary trend, and the farm workers of the United States have a bright outlook, William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, declared at the annual convention of the National Farm Labor Union here.

"Along with the industrial workers of America, the nation's farm workers broke all records in winning the battle of production to make victory in war certain," Mr. Green said.

"When the war was ended, the farmers' work was not done. A hungry world turned to America for bread and sustenance. Our own people, whose food was severely rationed during the war, looked to the farmers for greater abundance of supplies. The farm workers of the nation responded last year with the hardest kind of work, which produced the highest crop totals in history."

"For such service to the nation and to the world, the farm workers deserve a better fate than second-class citizenship. In the years ahead, American agriculture may be afflicted by surpluses, instead of shortages. Foreign markets will disappear because other countries in peacetime will be able to grow their own crops."

"It will then be necessary to develop our domestic markets to a greater extent, or face a severe depression. We must not wait until a depression starts. We must begin to act now. We must provide farm workers and industrial workers with a high enough income level and purchasing power to buy and consume all the food and clothing they need for themselves and their families. Once that is accomplished, America will find itself on the road to lasting prosperity."

Mr. Green declared the farm workers in the nation today face the same problems and also have access to the same opportunities as those confronting workers of our country more than a half century ago.

"But American agriculture has grown up," he said. "Machinery has moved in on the farm. Vast corporate plantations have crowded out and absorbed millions of family-type farms. From a practical point of view, there is no longer any wide disparity between large-scale farming operations and a modern industrial plant."

"The great danger of this mechanical age is that human values and human rights can be caught in the merciless vortex of the production machine and be ground out of existence. In self-protection, the indus-

trial workers of this nation met the impact of the industrial revolution 65 years ago by organizing into trade unions. By thus pooling their collective strength against the forces of greed and exploitation which control industry, the factory workers of this country have been able to win progressively higher standards of living for themselves and their families.

"Today the farm workers of America urgently need that same self-protection. Because of lack of organization, they are being exploited and oppressed and are denied equal protection under the laws of our land. For these reasons the American Federation of Labor, which has always led in the fight for the common man, was glad to issue a charter last August to the National Farm Labor Union.

"We are behind you, more than seven million strong, and are determined to give you full support in your efforts to organize the unorganized farm workers of the nation."

"Potentially, the National Farm Labor Union can be the largest in our country. We are ready to help you reach that goal, for only through organization and united action can you achieve for the millions of farm workers throughout the length and breadth of this land the high economic and social standards and the political freedoms which they have earned by their hard work and their loyalty to American principles."

Mr. Green emphasized that it was no intention of the farm labor union to unionize the occasional single hired hand on the small family-type farm.

"Your organizing efforts are directed toward the large agricultural enterprise which virtually run factories in the fields. These huge plantations, with highly mechanized facilities of their own packing and processing plants, are rapidly pushing the small farmer out of business. They are doing this by unfair competition and by almost inhuman methods. Frequently the low production costs of the factory-farms are wrung out of the sweat and blood of an army of hired labor, work long hours for low wages peak seasons and then turned adrift for months at a time. No individual farmer would ever treat the hired hand who works beside him in the fields with such callous cruelty."

"Everyone knows the eagerness with which the Government responds to the needs of those who own and operate farms. It is indeed surprising to find the needs of the millions who do the actual work on the farms almost com-

(Please Turn to Page 4)

SOMETHING DOING IN DIXIE

STRIKES REPORTED SETTLED

Two strikes at Chattanooga are reported settled: Sarah Jane Dobut signed closed shop with the Bakery employees. The American Lava employees International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers returned to work with 6 cents an hour increase.

CHARTERS APPLIED FOR

Organizer Rider working in Florida reports charter applications to United Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners to the employees of Cummers & Son Saw Mill, Lacombe, Florida.

The Musicians at Rome, Georgia, through Organizer Ortwein,

report that they have applied for a charter with the American Federation of Musicians. An election will be held at Rome on December 20th among employees of Advance Glove Company.

A new local union has been chartered by the International Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers in Nashville. International Representative Marvin Farmer is working hard in that city and has filed for certification in several shops. He is being assisted by Tennessee State Federation Organizer James P. Morgan. A new local of the Chemical Workers has also been put in at Nashville.

Organizer Warren reports that there has been a charter installed for the Sheet Metal Workers at Asheville, N. C.

Organizer Walter Mitchell reports the signing of a very favorable contract for Southern Liquid Gas employees organized in the International Chemical Workers Union at Dothan, Ala. The contract provided union shop, one to two weeks paid-vacation, 15 days annual sick leave, straight time pay for holidays not worked, double time for holidays worked, wages ranging from \$28 for labor to \$42 for top skills, 6 months wage re-opening clause.

Organizer Mitchell will open contract negotiations for Home Oil Company at Decatur, Ala., on the 12th and for Oak Leather on the 16th. Both of these concerns are organized in the Chemical Workers, that union having recently won elections in these plants.

FIGHT
INFANTILE
PARALYSIS

MARCH OF DIMES
JANUARY 15-30