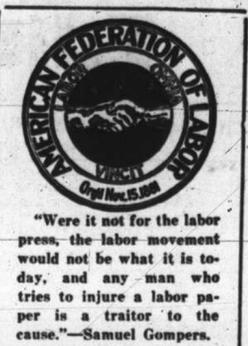


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Charlotte Labor Journal

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. 38

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1947

Subscription \$2.00 Per Year

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN MIAMI Unions Rally To Call Against Anti-Labor Measures

Green Scores Measures To Punish Unions As Council Meeting Opens

Miami.—Confronting some of the most momentous issues posed before it in recent years, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor converged on this city for its mid-winter meeting, which is expected to occupy at least two full weeks.

Foremost among the problems raised are those centered about the heavy flow of anti-labor legislation offered in the brief span since the current session of Congress convened. Bills already thrown into the legislative hopper would strip organized labor of every protection it has obtained in recent years. They would wipe out the closed shop and every other form of union security; would punish unions for jurisdictional strikes; subject unions to court injunctions; bar industry-wide collective bargaining, and latest but far from least, a new Ball measure which would, in effect, nullify the Wagner Act, and set organized labor back numbers of years when the workingman represented little better than slave labor status.

STASSEN RAPS BALL BILLS FOR CURBING LABOR RIGHTS

Senator Ball's violent attitude toward labor is too much even for the man who appointed him to the Senate—former Governor Harold F. Stassen of Minnesota. Stassen told newspapermen that the Ball bills to punish labor "go to far."

This is the second time Stassen has taken pains to disassociate himself from Ball's bitter campaigning against the workers. In a talk before the Yale Law School, Stassen told his audience that he opposes "any form of compulsory arbitration" and is against any change in the Norris-La Guardia Act which would subject unions to court injunctions.

CALIFORNIA JOBS INCREASE

San Francisco, Calif.—Reports from the California Division of Labor Statistics and Research shows a continuous upward trend in employment. Factory employment in the State for November, 1946, was 15 per cent higher than for the corresponding month in 1945. Employment in the non-durable goods industry for the month of November was the highest for November in the history of employment in the State.

Sparing no punches in a recent article written for the AFL Federationist, President William Green sounded fresh warning against the flood of anti-labor bills confronting Congress.

Declaring that these bills already number more than 30, Mr. Green asserted in part: "The purposes, policies and procedures of our trade union movement undergird free enterprise by assuring more adequate purchasing power—an essentially stabilizing force in sustained prosperity.

"Unions are the method by which wage earners promote their welfare more effectively than would be possible for them as individuals. Through the union, workers have become a self-directed element in free enterprise and have given their members effective opportunity to promote their welfare.

"Their progress is conditioned by their wisdom, their discipline and their resourcefulness. They as well as management have everything to gain by sound union policies and practices and much to lose if unsound substitutes are tried."

"Make no mistake about the principle that free unions are just as essential to free enterprise as is free management. Enterprise can maintain its freedom only if it uses its freedom wisely and makes its ultimate good service to fellow men."

"Free enterprise is carried on by human beings. There are few per-

AFL Officials At Mid-Winter Meet



Reading, left to right: William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who will preside over the Executive Council sessions; George Meany, secretary-treasurer; George L. Googe, Southern AFL director, who will report on the current Southern membership drive and just below Mr. Googe is I. N. Oraburn, director of the United Label Trades department of the AFL. The Executive Council meeting in Miami is expected to last at least two weeks and many other officials will participate in the sessions. Chief among the matters to come before the meetings will be the various anti-labor bills being put before Congress, which if enacted, would severely penalize all American workers. The AFL is urging all of its affiliated Unions throughout the country to lodge protests with their Congressmen against these bitter anti-labor measures.

LABOR—U. S. A.

Is The Guaranteed Annual Wage Practical?

Washington, D. C.—Labor, legislative and business spokesmen clashed in a nation-wide broadcast Sunday over the facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting System on the burning issue of the practicability of the guaranteed annual wage.

Boris Shishkin, legislative economist of the American Federation of Labor, declared that the guaranteed wage plan is one of the major objectives of the AFL; Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, said he favored the annual wage guarantee if it can be obtained through collective bargaining and with a minimum of legislation, and Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce expressed doubt that it could be applied generally because of the seasonal employment problem confronting many industries.

In a strong defense of the guaranteed annual wage plan, Mr. Shishkin declared:

"This plan is based on this condition: In many industries the manufacturer buys all his materials and plans all his costs one year in advance. Why shouldn't he earmark in advance the amount of money needed for his annual payroll in the same way he does for other things? And once he has an advance assumption of the risk for the year ahead for the payroll, why should there not be a minimum guarantee of employment, of the same kind as happens in many professions, where the white-collar payrolls are maintained on a yearly basis in advance?"

Mr. Shishkin stressed his strong belief that, through collective bargaining plans could be negotiated between management and unions voluntarily, by which there is at least a minimum guarantee and an indication of security to the worker for the year ahead.

Expressing satisfaction at hearing Mr. Shishkin "emphasize the

point about collective bargaining," Senator Morse said he felt nevertheless, "that here we are dealing with a subject which shows again the differences between theory and practice and between ideals and reality."

"I think that, where practical," he added, "a guaranteed annual wage is desirable, but I think it is a great mistake to lead millions of workers into a feeling that it is practical to have a guaranteed annual wage in a good many working situations. I don't accept the premise that the annual wage is practical in all industries."

"I do think that whenever we can get labor and management to sit down around the table and enter into an agreement for a guaranteed annual wage, it is desirable."

The Senator expressed grave concern over attempts by way of legislation to endanger any of the minimum standards "that we already have set up in legislation that are now benefiting the workers. I think that those standards already are too low in many respects."

Dr. Schmidt contended that there are "very definite" limitations on the extent to which a guaranteed wage plan could be applied. In this regard, he pointed out that, not only seasonal fluctuations, but also other fields, would be confronted with grave problems under such a plan.

"For instance," he said, "during the depression we had almost no house construction. Contractors who would be forced to guarantee wages over the cycle, over a period of prosperity and depression, would simply be up against it. They probably would go bankrupt."

Dr. Schmidt cited particularly as an admirable plan that introduced at the Hormel packing plant, under which the employes works as much as 53 hours a week, without overtime, in the busy seasons, and as few as 20 hours in slack periods, but re-



BUILDING CRAFT UNIONS IN CHICAGO GET RAISES

Chicago.—Members of six AFL building construction craft unions here have received wage increases of 10 per cent, effective June 1. This date was accepted by the unions to permit contractors to complete present building programs as well as to make future plans.

Wages of bricklayers will increase from \$2 an hour to \$2.20; carpenters, hoisting engineers and cement finishers from \$1.95 to \$2.15; laborers \$1.30 to \$1.50, and technical engineers' new rates will range from \$1.20 to \$2.50 an hour.

Previously AFL plumbers and pipefitters were granted increases from \$1.95 to \$2.15 an hour, and electricians' wages were boosted from \$1.97 1-2 to \$2.15 an hour.

FRANK HOPKINS, 42, DIES; INDIANA LABOR EDITOR

Michigan City, Ind.—Frank Hopkins, 42, editor of the Indiana Labor Beacon, died suddenly here of coronary thrombosis. Shortly before his death he had returned to his home from his office complaining of a pain in his chest.

Mr. Hopkins' editorials in the Beacon were widely reprinted and his art work was well known throughout labor circles. His cartoon practice appearing in the Beacon was known as "Girtie and Mae," two shop girls, and "The Gripe Brothers," two gloomy factory hands.

Unmarried, Mr. Hopkins took an active interest in Boy Scout activities, first as Scout then as Scout Master. Funeral services were held Thursday.

Labor Is Aroused By Proposals To Penalize American Workers

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor throughout the nation is building up a campaign of strong resistance to national and state legislative proposals for punitive labor measures.

Labor leaders throughout the country have appealed to the rank and file to register vigorous opposition with their legislative representatives against proposals to "crucify labor" on the built-up theory that recent labor-management disputes have been caused by unjustified demands of workers.

Meeting in Miami, the General Executive Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL) took a strong stand against proposed Government interference in jurisdictional disputes.

"Labor claims the just right to settle its own affairs in the future as it has done in the past," said a telegram from President Daniel J. Tobin to Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, new chairman of the Senate Labor and Education Committee. The message referred specifically to proposed bills for setting up a Government tribunal or commission to handle jurisdictional clashes.

SUPREME COURT IS EXPECTED TO RULE ON MINERS' CASE LATE IN FEBRUARY

Washington, D. C.—Decision of the United States Supreme Court on the imposition of \$3,510,000 in fines on the United Mine Workers and its president, John M. Lewis, is expected to be issued sometime late in February.

The union sharply challenged the legality of the Government's use of an injunction to head off the November soft coal work stoppage and the Government, in turn, charged the miners with ignoring Federal power to force continued operation of the pits.

UMW Counsel Welly K. Hopkins told the court that Attorney General Clark's statement supporting the fines sounded like a political speech.

"It had better been said in political forum than a court of law," he told the court. Hammering vigorously at Justice T. Alan Goldborough's imposition of the fines, Mr. Hopkins declared the rulings were illegal and lacking in authority.

Joseph A. Padway, general counsel for the American Federation of Labor, supporting the position taken by Mr. Hopkins, contended that the District Court erred in granting an injunction in the face of the Norris-La Guardia Act.

Counsel for the union contended that, merely because the mines were seized by the Government in a wage dispute, the miners were not Government employees in the sense of clerks and other Government workers who devote their full time to Federal service.

Mr. Hopkins said that the fine could not stand because the contempt of court prosecution was bungled. The charges were not brought as charges of civil contempt of court ought to be brought, he said, and they were not brought as a charge of criminal contempt of court ought to be brought.

Mr. Lewis and the UMW were not told which kind of contempt they were accused of, he said, and did not know for sure until they heard Justice Goldborough finding them guilty of both kinds. Justice Frankfurter asked whether Mr. Hopkins made these ob-

"If Government trespasses on the right of labor to settle its own disputes, undoubtedly as time goes on it will encroach further on the liberties of the workers and their organization," Mr. Tobin warned.

AFL President William Green, in a letter to all international, national and local AFL affiliates, advised all members to be on constant guard against approval of measures in federal and state legislatures which would impose undue burdens and uncalled-for limitations upon organized workers in the United States.

"It is highly important at this time that every worker in America should study with gravest concern the labor legislation which is being presented not only to the national Congress but to his State Legislature," Mr. Green said in his message. "There has never been a period of more extreme danger to the welfare of the American worker than right now, and his best insurance against unfair legislation is a sharp intelligence regarding the measures confronting our legislatures."

Mr. Green pointed out that bills have been presented in Congress which would completely wipe out the benefits gained by labor in the last decade and would shackle workers to the post to which they had been tied for a long number of years.

Meanwhile, overflow meetings were being held throughout the country to protest vigorously against anti-labor bills which had been swamping Congress and State Legislatures.

In San Francisco such an outpouring was held under the auspices of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, where the meeting unanimously approved a resolution by Local 265, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, calling upon 153 Local unions to wire or write California members of Congress urging them to oppose anti-labor measures.

Delegates of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Railroad Brotherhoods and independent unions, representing nearly a million organized workers, plan a joint meeting there to draw up their strategy against anti-union steamroller moves in Congress.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, AFL leaders have joined with inde-