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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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N. C. LABOR TO APPEAR BEFORE LAWMAKERS

New Minimum Wage And Hour Bill Is Now Awaiting Senate Vote

A State minimum wage and maximum hour bill for North Carolina was introduced in the Senate Tuesday and it is thought by experienced observers that it has an excellent chance of passage. It is an improvement over the present law, which does not include all classes of workers.

North Carolina Labor is supporting the new wage and hour bill but is bitterly opposing the proposed anti-closed shop measure which was introduced in the House last week. The anti-closed shop measure was offered by three war veterans but it is thought that the idea is an inspiration of strong anti-union interests in this and other States, due to the fact that similar bills have either been introduced or are pending.

Anyway, North Carolina Labor is up in arms against the anti-labor measure and will appear before the committee hearing in Raleigh next Wednesday to present their opposition in a big way. Charlotte unions will send large delegations to the State Capital.

Broader Security Program Pressed In Report Of SSB

Washington, D. C.—Broad expansion of the Nation's social security program, along lines long advocated by the American Federation of Labor, was urged upon Congress in the 11th annual report of the Social Security Board.

Pointing out that the present system "is seriously deficient in failing to provide adequately against the economic risks of old age, death and unemployment for all families, or to include protection against costs of sickness," the report declared:

"To this end, the board recommends to Congress a comprehensive system to cover all workers and their dependents."

Major proposal of the report, translated into specific terms, list three major steps the board feels must be taken to strengthen the existing old age and survivors' system.

1. Extension of this plan to cover farm labor, self-employed, domestic servants, employees in non-profit organizations and Government employment;

2. Increased benefits, particularly in view of the pyramided living costs;

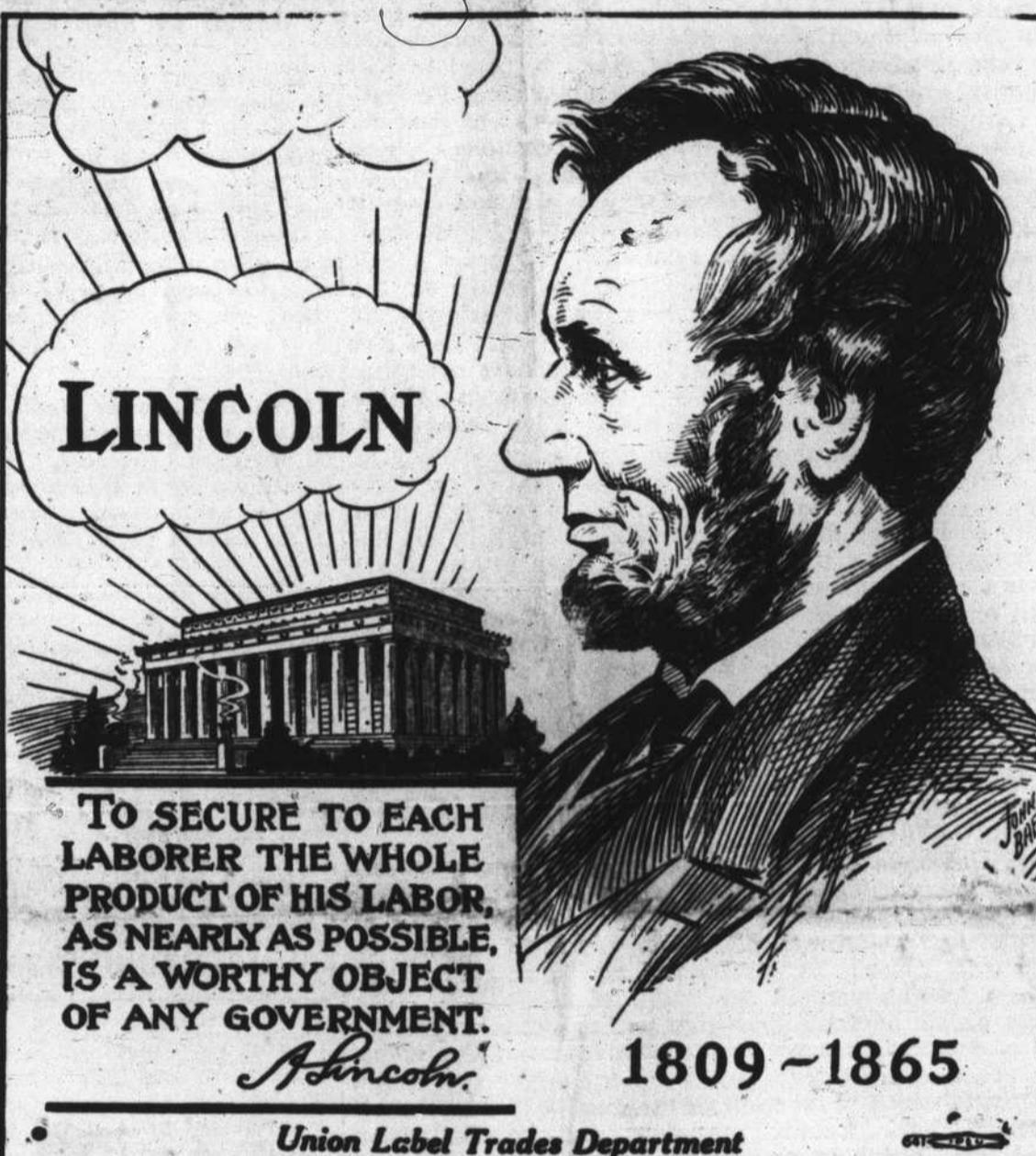
3. Extension of benefits to cover periods of permanent total disability.

Under other recommendations presented in the report are provisions making women eligible for retirement benefits at 60 instead of 65; increasing the taxable amount of wages from \$3,000 to \$3,600; and increasing from \$14.99 to about \$30 the monthly amount a beneficiary is permitted to earn without having his or her benefits suspended.

According to the Social Security Board's report, extension of coverage to small firms and to most of the other excluded groups would go a long way toward protecting the 12,000,000 workers now outside the scope of the unemployment insurance system. Along with increased coverage, the report recommends a maximum weekly benefit of at least \$25 to run for 26 weeks if an eligible worker should be unemployed that long. A worker should not be disqualified, according to the report if he has good personal reasons for leaving or

(Please Turn to Page 3)

REAL FRIEND OF THE TOILERS



Union Labels, Shop Cards and Service Buttons Insure Jobs

AFL Rolls Now Show 7,505,446 Members

COUNCIL TEXT AFFIRMING ANTI-LABOR BILL FIGHT

Miami, Fla.—Emphatically reaffirming its determination to battle to a finish the flood of anti-labor proposals presented in Congress and State legislatures, the AFL Executive Council, winding up its mid-winter session here, sharply assailed the 45 restrictive measures which President Wilson Green reported were waiting consideration in Washington.

Highlights of the concluding sessions of the Council—one of the shortest winter meetings of that group—included:

1. Announcement of Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that the membership now totals 7,505,446

—an all-time record, and a quarter of a million above the figure for September.

2. Adoption of a plan to reduce strikes by appointment of a three-man committee of the top AFL leaders to work out settlement formulas for disputes.

3. Approval of a plan for compulsory retirement of members of the AFL headquarters staff at the age of 65. This would not apply to elected officers or organizers, Mr. Green told newsmen.

4. Unanimous opposition to compulsory military training in peace-time.

5. Reiteration of the AFL policy of unrelenting opposition to any proposed legislation, national or State, which would restrict the social and economic progress of organized American workers.

The new retirement plan, Mr. Green told newsmen, will become effective April 1, and the Council has set aside a fund of \$300,000 to cover the accumulated years of

credit for employees now on the staff. After that date, the fund becomes "participating," with both the AFL and its staff members contributing.

Regarding the Council's resolution setting up a three-man committee to supervise the fight against anti-labor bills, Mr. Green was asked if the opposition might take the form of strikes. He replied that he couldn't say at the moment what the committee will do, and added that the committee was authorized to make its own decisions on what course might meet a given situation.

Appointed to this committee were Mr. Green, Mr. Meany, Secretary-Treasurer, and William L. Hutchison, AFL first Vice-President and head of the Carpenters.

In view of the grave legislative situation, the Council advanced its spring quarterly meeting by one month and will meet next in Washington on April 21.

TEAMSTERS GIVEN RAISE

Miami, Fla.—Employees of Swift & Co., Armour & Co., and The Weathers Warehouse, members of Teamsters Local 390, have been granted wage increases of 7 1/2 to 10 cents an hour.



For More Information
Consult Your Union Social Security Committee,
OR the Nearest Social Security Office.

Committee Hearing On House Bill 229 To Be Held On Wednesday

North Carolina Labor will appear before the Labor Committee of the North Carolina General Assembly next Wednesday when the House Bill No. 229 is brought up for a hearing in there. That is the information that has been transmitted to Charlotte Central Labor Union and its affiliates by President C. A. Fink of the North Carolina Federation of Labor, who states that one of the largest delegations of AFL unionists ever to visit the State Capitol is expected to be present.

At the weekly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union reports by delegates indicated that a large delegation of Charlotte tradesmen will be present when the hearing is called in the House chamber.

The local American Federation of Labor Unions last week passed a resolution strongly condemning the proposed anti-closed shop bill for North Carolina and no doubt they will back up their protest by appearing against the drastic anti-labor measure. The carpenters, the electricians, the printers—in fact, about 50 AFL unions are expected to have representatives present from the Queen City.

Local union members express themselves as being bitterly opposed to an anti-closed shop bill in this State, due to the fact that North Carolina labor has always endeavored to settle its differences round the conference table through collective bargaining, and they claim that where closed shop agreements are negotiated with management no law should be on the statute books which would interfere with the contract terms. Without a doubt if such a law were passed making it unlawful to negotiate closed shop contracts much confusion would result and this would greatly interfere with the extremely harmonious relations that have existed between labor and management in North Carolina throughout the years.

The North Carolina Federation of Labor Executive board will hold a two-day meeting in Raleigh beginning next Tuesday, during which time union representatives from all parts of the State will appear before the board to express themselves relative to the proposed bill.

President Fink asks that all North Carolina unions take action against this measure and that they contact their representatives in the General Assembly and express their opposition.

Truman Stand On Issues Supports AFL

Washington.—The position taken by the American Federation of Labor on wage stabilization, collective bargaining and related industrial questions has been substantiated by President Truman and the Council of Economic Advisers, states George T. Brown, labor economist, in an article appearing in the American Federationist, A. F. of L. monthly magazine.

Mr. Brown, the economist of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, declares that "the future does not look rosy" when Mr. Truman's recent economic report to Congress is examined carefully.

"The declining standard of living, the drying up of workers' savings accounts (where there are any), the rapid increase in installment buying are all a part of the same pattern that brought on 1929 and 1932," the writer warns.

Pointing out that "real wages" are declining with dangerous rapacious savings accounts (where there are practically nonexistent," Mr. Brown declares that the facts of the 1947 economic situation should end the dream that there is a guaranteed market for the ever-growing production rate."

He says that when workers fail to receive sufficient income to maintain their standard of living, credit is dangled before their eyes. This is happening now on a growing scale, Mr. Brown declares, supporting his charge with a quotation from Mr. Truman's report.

"Economists know that increased output, lower selling price per unit and generally steady wage rates can mean avoidance of depression and continued prosperity.

"Labor leaders know that genu-

"But whatever may occur in the future, the fact is now estab- (Continued on Page 3)