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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.*



"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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## FREE LABOR FACES WORLD-WIDE THREAT Congress Told Many Labor Bills Strictly "Punitive"

### WOLL WARNS OF DANGER IN SPREAD OF SLAVE LABOR AROUND WORLD

Washington, D. C.—Expansion of the "slave labor system" is a "dire threat to the free workers of all countries," according to the International Labor Relations Committee of the American Federation of Labor.

This was the pronouncement issued here by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, who declared that "forced labor has become a post-war institution in many lands." "In Europe alone," Mr. Woll's statement declared, "it has been estimated that nearly one-third of all productive work is now being done by slave labor." The survey, upon which Mr. Woll was reporting, reported that:

"Slave labor is a challenge which free labor must meet and must meet at once—or be driven into slavery itself."

Despite the interval since the end of the war "millions of men and women from former enemy countries are still being held as slave laborers."

Large numbers of war prisoners still are being held in Great Britain, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, the summary points out, in asserting crimes committed by the Nazis were no excuse "for the crimes being perpetrated today, especially in the name of democratic and peace-loving peoples."

"Under no guise is the return to chattel slavery and the Dark Ages permissible or desirable," said Mr. Woll, in the statement which was said to have the approval of the executive council of the AFL.

"What a sad retrogression. Compare this with what happened after the first war when, within ten months after the end of hostilities, all prisoners of war were freed. With such impetuosity has mankind been going backward that even an organization calling itself the World Federation of Trade Unions has proposed the imposition of forced labor on the Ruhr coal miners."

"Paradoxical as it may appear, it is the land which calls itself 'socialist,' the government which parades as a 'workers' republic,' that is the worst and biggest slave center on earth today. It is from Soviet Russia that the tidal wave of labor enslavement has swept westward. The Irkutsk Pravda only recently boasted that 5,000,000 prisoners of war are being used as penal labor in Siberia."

In the Kremlin domain there are millions of Soviet citizens doomed to slave labor camps merely because they are suspected or convicted of disapproving or disagreeing with some act or policy of the ruling group.

"But the Moscow dictatorship also holds in slavery millions of non-Russians . . . hundreds of thousands of these slaves were rounded up by the Soviet police and snared by its spy dragnet in the capitals of Russia's conquered and satellite lands. . . ."

"Barrack economy anywhere is a menace to free labor everywhere. When Japanese soldiers are turned into slave-tollers on the Volga-Lake Baikal railway for the benefit of the Russian bureaucracy or when Papuans and

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### Green Asks AFL Unions To Back Teachers' Pay Demands



SPRING CLEANING

### URGES STRONG DRIVES IN ALL LOCALITIES FOR MORE SCHOOL FUNDS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, in letters to all AFL Central Labor Unions, has sounded a strong appeal to all central bodies to give vigorous support to efforts of teachers throughout the Nation in their efforts to provide increased standards through advocacy of increased educational appropriations.

Deploring the inadequate funds supplied for teachers, Mr. Green declared:

"The 1946 convention of the American Federation of Labor gave serious attention to the crisis in education which has grown out of inadequate compensation and resulted in teacher shortage."

"Teaching is an occupation vital to our democracy, and should be dignified by pay in proportion to value of services. To assure pay adequate to maintain and improve education's opportunities for all children, two approaches are necessary—Federal aid to local schools and larger local appropriations, or more effective tax measures."

"Only through the sustained and co-ordinated efforts of the labor movement, acting through all federated bodies and local unions, can these ends be realized. Education is the concern of every union."

Pointing out that throughout his lifetime, the AFL has actively supported the Nation's public school system "as the basis of equal educational opportunity for all," Mr. Green added:

"Unfortunately, teachers themselves have not organized properly to promote their economic interests. It was not until the first World War that teachers realized an economic foundation was necessary for sustained professional standards and began organizing in unions affiliated with the AFL. During the present period of crisis the American Federation of Teachers has made unparalleled progress and now has locals in over 300 cities."

"The teachers unions are the agencies with which Central Labor Unions should co-operate in working out adequate tax revenues earmarked for education. I urge each Central Labor Union to take the initiative in its locality in securing larger appropriations for education, and to work in co-operation with our unions for these workers."

Meanwhile, Boris Shiskin, AFL economist, addressing the annual conference of the New York Teachers' Guild in New York, cited particularly the need of providing instructors with an adequate salary if the task rests with them of teaching children how to obtain an adequate standard of living.

Mr. Shiskin told the group: "Since 1941, the year of our entry into war, half the school teachers have left the school system. They were forced out of their chosen pursuit by economic

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### BLACKSMITHS MEETING IN CHICAGO DISCUSS PLANS FOR YEAR

Chicago, Ill.—Two hundred and fifty delegates, representing approximately 500 units with a membership of 30,000, are expected here for the 17th convention of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths (AFL) next week. Headquarters for the convention will be in the Morrison Hotel.

President Roy Horn is seriously ill and will be unable to attend this convention.

Vice President John Pelkofer will preside. Mr. Pelkofer has been acting as president of the organization during Mr. Horn's illness.

Many vital problems will be presented to the convention by delegates from all parts of the Nation, including revision of the union's constitution.

Melroy Horn, son of President Horn and business manager of the Gasoline Station Attendants' Union in St. Louis, is scheduled to extend his father's greetings to the convention!

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### SEAFARERS SEEK WAGE RAISES TO MEET HIGHER COST OF LIVING

New York City.—Increased wages to the rising costs of living are being sought by the East Coast Division of the Seafarers International Union (AFL), following a meeting here.

Operators with which the union has contracts were notified of the new requests after a special meeting of the SIU.

In announcing the move, a union spokesman pointed out that last year the SIU, aided by other AFL maritime unions, had brought American shipping to a "complete standstill" when the Wage Stabilization Board ruled against increases that the union had negotiated with shipowners.

No definite demands have been set by the union but a negotiating committee, headed by J. P. Shuler, assistant secretary-treasurer, will attempt to "work out" a satisfactory wage scale with operator representatives, it was reported.

Asserting that the gains won by the union last year had been "practically wiped out" by the rising cost of essentials, Paul Hall, port agent for the SIU, declared:

"We cannot allow ourselves to go back to the substandard living that seamen had to endure for so long."

"We expect the operators to bargain in good faith. If not, we can always rely on economic action at the point of production."

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### FIRST DANGER SIGNS CITED IN CREDIT RISE, SAVINGS DECREASE

Washington, D. C.—Workers and other consumers are making up their income deficit by drawing on their savings and buying on credit, it was reported in the Monthly Survey of the American Federation of Labor, which declared that consumer credit has increased 45 per cent in the last year while savings have dropped 41 per cent.

"These are the first signs of danger," the report said. "To support production by consumer borrowing and by spending savings is to build our industrial structure on a hollow foundation which will collapse. An enduring foundation can only be built out of increased consumer income, and about 75 to 80 per cent of American consumers are workers and their families."

"Wages and salaries provide about 70 per cent of consumer income, which is spent for foods. Factory workers' average weekly 'real' wage in December, 1946, was 4 per cent below the same month of the previous year and the 'real' wage of workers in retail stores dropped 2 per cent in the same period—to cite as typical examples industries which employ 40 per cent of all non-farm workers. That is why workers have had to borrow and draw on their savings. That is why workers' income must be restored."

Discussing the question of whether labor and employers can be partners, the survey said:

"American industries and consumers are reaping the benefits of labor's co-operation. A reliable investors' service anticipates excellent earnings statements for the first quarter of 1947, and expects profits for the full year of 1947 to exceed the record net results of 1946. Full year results depend on the course of industrial developments."

The "key" question, seen in the report, "centers about the willingness of employers, through peaceful negotiations, to agree to the wage increases which today's favorable situation makes possible. Or will employers make it necessary for workers to strike in order to obtain fair wage gains?"

"Workers' total income declined by \$5,500,000,000 while the income of other groups rose by a total of \$8,000,000,000, in the period between 1945 and 1946, the report revealed."

"This cut in workers' income is serious for two reasons," it added, "it means a decline in workers' living standards, especially when it comes at a time of price increases, and the market for industry's products will be cut unless workers' income is increased. The Nation's 40,000,000 wage and salaried workers buy a great deal larger share of industry's consumer goods product than do the 10,000,000 farmers and business men."

### AFL UNION WINS

High Point, N. C.—The American Federation of Labor was victorious recently in an election held for employees of the Planters Oil and Fertilizer Co.

### Economists Ask For Commission To Explore Labor Relationships

### KLEIN SAYS 70 ANTI- LABOR SPEAKERS CITED FOR UNFAIR PRACTICES

New York City.—Charges that the majority of the 70 management witnesses who have appeared before the U. S. House Labor Committee arguing for restrictive labor legislation are persons who have been cited by the National Labor Relations Board or courts for unfair labor practices were made by Representative Arthur Klein of New York.

Representative Klein, member of the committee, spoke before a conference of 500 delegates from 150 local labor unions here. He disclosed he is gathering data on the labor records of the management witnesses, who, he said outnumbered the labor witnesses seven to one. He will publish his results in the Congressional Record, he said.

"The labor bills before Congress will do away with the gains of labor for the past 40 to 50 years," he asserted.

Charles S. Zimmerman, vice president of the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, displayed a handbill that would have announced a general strike in the garment industry if a settlement had not been reached two days ago. The union very nearly had its first strike in 15 years because the employers had been encouraged to "get tough" by anti-labor agitation, he charged.

"Happily," he added, "they changed their minds and agreed to bargain in good faith."

Emil Schleisinger, general counsel to the ILGWU, said the portal-to-portal bill proposed would scrap the wages and hours law. Messages were read from Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach and Senator Robert Wagner. Resolutions were adopted unanimously opposing restrictive labor legislation.

### DAIRY WORKERS GET RAISE

Johnson City, Tenn.—Eight hundred employees of Pet Dairy Products Company, in 25 plants in six states have been organized and brought under a standard agreement negotiated by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The contract is system-wide and the closed shop and check-off are established with system-wide seniority.

Up to three months payment of full wages during illness, six legal holidays and double pay if worked are some of the benefits established. Dressing and cleaning time for inside workers prior to and finishing work is paid time.

### UMW WINS 3 ELECTIONS

Atlanta, Ga.—The United Mine Workers of America (AFL) have won elections among technical and supervisory employees in three West Virginia coal mines, located at Pineville, Valley Head and Benwood, W. Va.

Ahmad, Mass.—Many of the labor bills now pending before Congress represent "punitive legislation, designed to destroy many successful collective bargaining practices and to jeopardize the rights of workers, rather than to find solutions to existing problems."

This was the conclusion reached by a group of 160 economists and political scientists in session here who addressed a letter to Senator Taft, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, urging support of President Truman's proposal for a joint commission to conduct a careful investigation of labor-management relations.

The economists congratulated the Senate Committee upon the comprehensive hearings it has been holding. They nevertheless expressed grave doubts whether committee hearings "valuable as they are as an expression of public opinion, can produce the objective record of factual material which is needed at the present time."

"Committee hearings," the group stated, "must necessarily take place against the background of pending wage negotiations between several major industries and the unions representing their workers, and cannot help reflecting the pressures arising from this situation. Furthermore, the testimony heard will be directed at the bills under consideration, many of which seem punitive."

The educators concluded: "We strongly oppose any legislation which attempts to wipe out the gains made in the last decade granting the workers a somewhat more equal bargaining position with industry, and which propose now to place workers at the mercy of their employers."

"We hope that your committee will realize that only a forward-looking approach to the problem of labor-management relations can lead to any real solution and prevent reprisals, against workers which will endanger democratic rights."

### BARGAINING CURBS ASSAILED BY HERZOG AT HEARING

Washington, D. C.—Any change in the policy of encouraging collective bargaining would have "most unhappy consequences," Paul M. Herzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, declared before the Senate Labor Relations Committee which is considering far-reaching proposals for revision of labor legislation.

"Successful collective bargaining would be frustrated if any of the employee's rights, guaranteed by the Wagner Act, were subtracted from that statute," he said.

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