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CENTRAL LABOR
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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 today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."—Samuel Gompers.

Charlotte Labor Journal

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PHONE TIETUP UNSETTLED

Government Employees To Hold Open House Meet

The American Federation of Government Employees at its regular meeting this week voted to hold an open house meeting in the Mecklenburg County Courthouse on Wednesday night, May 14. According to plans made at this week's session several prominent speakers will be invited to be present and address the organization and its friends and it is hoped to have among the group a vice president of the AFGE from either Atlanta or Washington.

All members of organized labor in Charlotte are invited to be present and President C. A. Fink of the North Carolina Federation of Labor will be extended a special invitation to be present. President Belch of the local AFGE also told a Labor Journal representative this week that he will extend an invitation to both the National President and National Secretary of the American Federation of Government Employees to come to Charlotte for this occasion.

This week's meeting of the AFGE was held in its meeting hall in the Charlotte Labor Temple and following the regular business session of the lodge refreshments consisting of ice cream and wafers were served to the members and visitors and yecscribe can testify to the fine spirit of fellowship displayed by this American Federation of Labor affiliate.

The Charlotte local of the AFGE was reformed during the war days and government workers at the Quartermaster depot and in other assignments in Charlotte swelled the ranks to a large local lodge. Since the close of the war some of the members of the war days have left Charlotte, but the lodge yet has a sizeable membership. However, President Belch says that renewed efforts will be launched at the May 14 meeting to launch a membership drive that will bring all local government employees into the Charlotte lodge. The Charlotte local is composed of both men and women members. It is not part of the local postal employees locals, but is a separate organization for all other employees of the Federal government.

President Belch has requested that all officers and members of AFL unions in Charlotte be present for the May 14 open house gathering.

AFL BATTLES LAWS IN 4 STATES TO BAN CLOSED SHOP PLAN

Atlanta, Ga.—A stern challenge to the constitutionality of laws passed in four Southern States outlawing the closed shop was announced by Southern leaders of the American Federation of Labor.

The court tests will be made in Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas and North Carolina, George L. Googe, AFL Southern Campaign Director, told the press. A similar four-year-old ban is being fought in the Florida courts.

In Georgia, Mr. Googe declared, a fight would also be made to demand employer compliance with existing contracts on the ground that the State Constitution prohibits any retroactive law "impairing the obligation of contracts."

AFL SPOKESMAN FIRMLY HITS ACROSS- BOARD RENT INCREASES

Washington, D. C.—Testifying before the House Committee on Banking and Currency on the extension of rent control, Boris Shishkin, Secretary of the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor, took a firm stand against any across-the-board increase in rent ceilings and against premature termination of the present rent control law. He recommended:

1. Complete elimination of ceilings on all rental units renting in excess of \$150 a month.
2. A 10 per cent increase, effective July 1, in rent ceilings on apartment hotels and residential hotel units where maid service and other personal services are provided.
3. A study to be instituted by the Office of Temporary Controls of changes in income and the cost of operation of those units in which heat, hot water, switchboard and other utilities and services are provided by the landlord.
4. Full retention of the existing rent control powers until July 1, 1948, with the view of terminating Federal rent control in most communities by March 31, 1948, and, where necessary, authorizing transfer of rent control and its enforcement to the local authorities after that date.
5. Transfer of rent control administration to the office of Temporary Controls as the most logical and best equipped agency to administer this strictly temporary program. The American Federation of Labor has full confidence in Brig-Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Office of Temporary Controls, as a man of wide administrative experience and a capable and fair administrator.

"Labor is strongly opposed to the adoption of the Wolcott Bill as extremely misleading and wholly unworkable. The Wolcott Bill would mean immediate termination of effective rent control, bringing untold hardship to millions of American families. It leaves the enforcement of rent control to the courts and provides no safeguard against immediate eviction.

"Tenants, put out on the street with no place to go, would gain no comfort from their empty right to begin lengthy litigation which most of them could ill afford."

Mr. Shishkin also recommended that the rent control legislation be enacted in a separate bill and divorced from any housing bills.

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WAGES ROSE 14 PER CENT IN '46; PRICES ROSE 4 PER CENT HIGHER

Washington, D. C.—Pay of production workers in manufacturing industries increased 14 per cent during 1946, while consumer prices were rising 18 per cent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The bureau said average earnings of these workers increased almost \$6 a week.

The greatest increases, amounting to more than 20 per cent, were in the lumber and textile groups. At the start of 1947, however, workers in those industries will averaged less than \$40 a week, according to the bureau.

Reporting for the month of February on the basis of preliminary estimates, the bureau said production workers' earnings averaged \$47 a week for the third successive month.

Telephone workers averaged \$43.19 a week in January, the last month for which final figures are available. The average work week in the industry was 38.5 hours, and average hourly earnings \$1.13.

The average weekly earnings for all manufacturing was \$46.79; the average work week was 40.2 hours, and average hourly earnings was \$1.165.

Among the non-manufacturing industries soft coal mining maintained the lead, with average weekly earnings of \$69.58. The average soft coal work week was 46.8 hours, exceeded only by the

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BRIGHTER LABOR VISTA

Washington, D. C.—Paul M. Herzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, believes labor-management relations "may be sailing on better waters from now on."

He told the House Appropriations Committee that he was confident "the great strikes that occur after the war will not be repeated."

HOUSE UNIT APPROVES PROPOSALS FOR INJUNCTIONS TO OUTLAW STRIKES

Washington, D. C.—Legislation authorizing the Government to resort to the injunction process to prohibit strikes regarded as affecting national welfare was approved by the House Labor Committee, 16 to 3.

The measure, authorized by the committee chairman, Rep. Hartley of New Jersey, was reported by some observers as doubtful of passage. They regarded it as aimed primarily at the threatened walkout of telephone workers.

As finally cleared by the committee, the bill would strike at one of the most sensitive points in labor legislation by weakening the Norris-La Guardia Act forbidding the use of the injunction in labor disputes.

Whenever a strike in interstate communications, transport or utilities injured or "threatened" to injure public "health, safety or interest," the President would be authorized to have the Attorney

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MOLDERS REPORT PROGRESS IN WAGE RAISES AND BENEFITS

Cincinnati.—Important gains in wages and working conditions were reported by Harry Stevenson, International President of the Molders and Foundry Workers Union of North America.

The settlement in the stove industry, with which the union has had a contract for 57 years with no strikes, was marked by a 13-cent across-the-board hourly wage jump for all day workers, and proportionate increases for piece workers.

In the Cincinnati district, known as the Miami Valley, the foundries and the union reached an accord by which workers there will receive a 13-cent hourly raise. This agreement covers Cincinnati, Dayton, Hamilton, and smaller towns throughout was reached covering much of New England under which the workers will receive a 13-cent hourly raise and will have the enjoyment of three paid holidays. Thousands of members are covered in the Boston agreement.

Negotiations in the Philadelphia area, involving some 40 foundries, reached an amicable settlement when the companies agreed to an increase of 13 cents an hour with paid holidays.

The 13-cent-an-hour increase also was granted in Newark, with provision for six paid holidays. Settlement of negotiations in Elizabeth, N. J., for the 13-cent rise was reported, too.

The gains registered in recent months, Mr. Stevenson reported, are spread from coast to coast, and have benefitted some 20,000 members of the union.

AFL OFFICE UNION FIRES 3 OAKLAND LEADERS FOR LINKS WITH REDS

Chicago.—Expulsion of three persons was upheld unanimously at the convention here of the Office Employees International Union (AFL) on grounds that they were Communists or Communist sympathizers.

The three expelled members were officers of Local 29, of Oakland, Calif., and included Tom Bolster, president; Herbert Kalman, vice-president, and Muriel Kerchen, business representative.

The expulsion decision was taken on March 5 by nine members of the board. An appeals committee of five recommended to the convention that the decision should be upheld.

The convention delegates unanimously adopted the resolution, putting the union squarely behind the pronouncement condemning Communism, which was adopted at the AFL convention here in October.

Newark, N. J.—Employers and union representatives affiliated with the AFL have opened a series of meetings to prevent a tie-up of breweries in this area. The AFL locals represent 3,000 bottlers, warehousemen, drivers and deliverymen.

As The Labor Journal goes to press this week the nationwide telephone strike remains unsettled, but information coming out of Washington via press dispatches indicates that perhaps some plan has about been negotiated between the telephone company and the national Federation of Telephone Employees whereby the long lines of dispute may soon be submitted to arbitration. However, this plan does not affect the entire nation-wide telephone tieup, according to John J. Moran, president of the Long Lines Union.

AFL TEACHERS REGISTER GAINS IN CHARTERING OF 72 LOCAL CHAPTERS

Chicago.—Widespread gains throughout the Nation in establishment of local teachers' unions, was announced here by Irvin R. Kuenzli, National Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL).

Despite strong opposition from many quarters, it was revealed, 72 new locals already have been granted AFL charters in the current school year, and indications are that the number of new units will pass the 100 mark before the end of June.

Commenting on the rapid expansion of the AFL teachers organization, Mr. Kuenzli asserted:

"The last school year, when 72 new teachers' locals were chartered, represented the greatest period of progress in the history of our union. So far this year we have chartered almost as many locals as were chartered during the whole school year 1946-47.

"The teachers of the Nation have learned in recent efforts for salary increases and other benefits that independent non-union associations have little professional strength and are turning to the AFL for help. Mr. Willard Givens, National Executive Secretary, stated recently that 'teachers usually join unions in desperation.' There is a great deal of sound observation in this statement, since teachers have usually organized only after their non-union associations have failed them completely.

"As a rule, independent teachers' associations are so controlled by the school administration that desperate circumstances are required before teachers break their bonds and form unions.

"The fact that teachers in nearly 400 cities and towns from coast to coast have now formed AFL locals is one of the most wholesome signs in American democracy.

"Despite heavy losses to the armed forces and to war induction, and despite the fact that thousands of teachers have been leaving the profession for increased income, the membership of the AFL has increased approximately 75 per cent since the beginning of World War II.

"The international union has had a net gain of nearly 20,000 members since Pearl Harbor. This figure represents one of the largest gains in membership—if not the largest—among the white collar unions.

"Matthew Woll, Chairman of the Permanent Education Com-

mittee of the AFL, has pointed out that the AFL is one of the most rapidly-growing white collar unions in the world today.

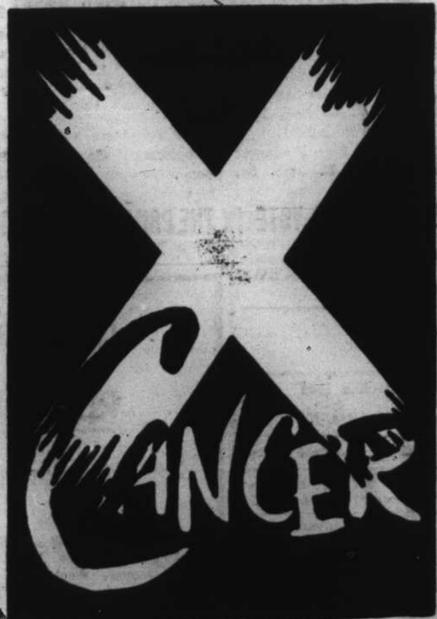
"There are now AFL locals in all of the 25 largest cities of the Nation, with the exception of one city—Houston, Tex. There are also locals in approximately three-fourths of the cities of the Nation, with populations of more than 100,000, and in some 300 cities and towns with less than 100,000 population."

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