

# Editorial

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL & DIXIE FARM NEWS  
Published Weekly at Charlotte, N. C.

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Entered as second-class mail matter September 11, 1931, at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$2.00 per year, payable in advance or 5c per copy.  
ADVERTISING RATES for commercial advertising reasonable.

Official Organ of the Charlotte Central Labor Union and Approved by The American Federation of Labor and the North Carolina Federation of Labor

Address All Communications to Post Office Box 1061  
Telephone 3-3094 and 4-5502  
Office of Publication: 118 East Sixth Street, Charlotte, N. C.

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## GALLUP POLL SHOWS VOTERS OPPOSE TAFT-HARTLEY-ACT

The weight of public opinion favors the repeal or revision of the Taft-Hartley law, according to a survey released by the American Institute of Public Opinion, more commonly known as the Gallup Poll.

The majority of voters, who expressed definite opinions on the subject, believe the law is one-sided in favor of employers, and will either have no effect or will increase the number of strikes.

This is eloquent evidence as to the effectiveness of the publicity campaign carried on by the American Federation of Labor to explain the act and to show the effects of its insidious and harmful provisions not only upon labor unions, but upon the general public.

All voters who heard or read about the Taft-Hartley law were asked whether they thought it should be revised, repealed, or left unchanged. Analysis of replies to the question showed 53 per cent favored revision or repeal, while only 22 per cent wanted the law left unchanged. The remaining 25 per cent expressed no opinion.

On the strike issue the question read: "As a result of this law, do you think there will be more strikes during the next three years, or fewer?"

Replies showed that 32 per cent of the voters believe the law will have no effect upon the number of strikes or will lead to a greater number. Only 26 per cent thought the law would bring about fewer strikes. A larger number, 42 per cent, expressed no opinion on the subject.

A breakdown by political parties of replies to a general question concerning over-all approval or disapproval of the law shows the expected heavy Republican opinion in favor of the measure. Of the voters indicating general approval, 53 per cent were Republicans, while only 17 per cent were Democrats. The 39 per cent who disapproved the law were split as follows: 52 per cent were Democrats, 22 per cent were Republicans.

The results of the survey can rightfully be interpreted as a source of encouragement for labor. However, another point should be kept in mind since it serves as a pointer for labor's future course. The poll showed that only 6 out of 10 voters had ever heard about the Taft-Hartley law.

Labor must make the effort to reach the voters who are ignorant of the consequences of this legislation, or who expressed no opinion on the subject, and win them over to its side in the forthcoming battle for repeal of the law.

## BASIC INEQUITY IN TAX SYSTEM

The circus conducted on Capitol Hill by Senators Brewster and Ferguson, et al, turned up an interesting sidelight.

The grilling given "Good Time" John Meyer concerning his lavish expenditure for the entertainment of certain personages has pointed up a basic anomaly in our tax structure. J. A. Livingston, writing for the Washington Post called it a "major loophole, a terrible irony in our tax system."

In brief, Meyer stands for the high living indulged in by business executives at the expense of their workers and stockholders and by the general public.

This is the way it works out. Meyer, for example, leads a life lavishly sprinkled with champagne, steaks, hotel suites, and the kind of trips we all dream of. Who pays the bill? In Meyer's case, Hughes did. In the case of other businessmen who have lavish expense accounts, their companies foot the bill as business expenditures. Thus, those who have an interest in the companies stand to lose to the extent of the amount of the expenses run up by the spenders. Is that all there is to it? No! Because these business expenditures are considered legitimate expenses, they are non-taxable. This is where John Q. Public takes the rap. Business concerns pay taxes at the rate of 38 per cent, while personal income taxes for the high income group run as high as 85 per cent. Thus, if these expenditures come out of the high salaries of business executives instead of from corporate funds, the tax yield would be greater for the U. S. Treasury. Since they do not, the taxes for all of the little people are that much greater.

Now, consider the business expense of a plain, ordinary individual. Take a war widow who has to pay someone to look after a child while she works to keep the home fires burning. Is that expense deductible? It is not. It constitutes a living expense which is taxable at the relatively higher personal income tax rates.

The Senate Committee which raised such a fuss should have devoted more time to ironing out this grave injustice in our tax structure and less to looking for a "goat" on which to pin a past sin.

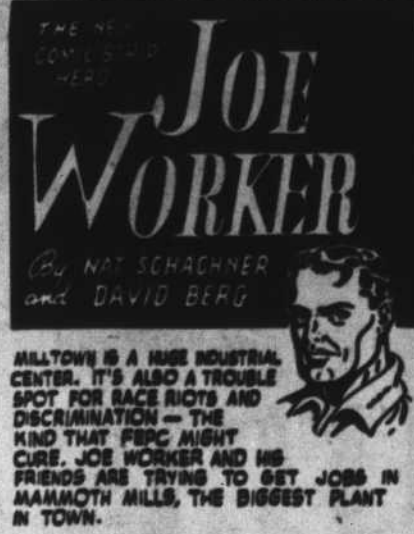
## NLRB CLARIFIES RIGHTS OF LABOR UNIONS

Unions, if though they refuse to file the financial data and affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley law, may obtain a hearing before the National Labor Relations Board under certain circumstances.

NLRB officials stated that a union cannot be denied a hearing when it desires to intervene in a case before the board and can show that rights it obtained apart from the law, such as a contract, are challenged by another union. This position has been upheld by the courts even where the contract in question was illegal.

A case in point involved the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, which was accused of an unfair labor practice on the grounds that it gave assistance to a union in violation of the Wagner Act. The union whose authority as legal bargaining agent was under attack was allowed to intervene in the election proceedings brought by the second union against the company.

Hence, although a union has refused to file financial data and non-Communist affidavits, and therefore can file no petitions before the board, it will be allowed to defend the



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position it has already won. The advantage of this privilege will remain dubious, however, until the board determines whether it will grant the nonfiling union a place on the ballot in a collective bargaining election.

If the nonfiling union won a place on the ballot the board could not certify it as bargaining agent even if it won the election. But the union might gain a moral advantage and persuade the employer to maintain the old relationship and grant a new contract. There is nothing in the law to prevent an employer from recognizing a union which has not been certified by the NLRB, provided no other union has been certified.

## TAFT'S HAT IN PRESIDENTIAL RING-IT'S EMPTY EVEN WHEN HE WEARS IT

(Continued From Page 1)  
medical assistance only if they confessed themselves paupers. This was typical of his callous attitude toward human rights and progress!

5. Senator Taft was one of the strongest supporters of a new tax bill which would have accorded the wealthy substantial tax reductions and given the masses of the people only a token tax cut. This measure had to be twice vetoed by President Truman for its obvious unfairness before it was killed.

It is almost unbelievable that a public servant with such a record could ever aspire to the office of the President of the United States. Yet Senator Robert A. Taft stands before the American people today, fatuously seeking their support for the highest office in the land.

What are you, the workers and the voters of America, going to do about it?

## GREEN ASSERTS LABOR IS OPPOSED TO TAFT

(Continued From Page 1)  
lems lie ahead. We must meet these boldly, yet with strict self-discipline and with full regard for the public interest. We must work hard, morning, noon and night, to earn a resounding victory for progress. I hope that each one of you will go home from this convention determined and inspired to do your full part toward the achievement of that victory."

## AFL 1947 Convention Calendar

(Following is a list of conventions scheduled for this year by National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. This list is not complete. Addition will be announced later.)

- \*Aug.—Nevada State Federation of Labor—Ely.
- Aug. 16—International Typographical Union—Cleveland, Ohio.
- Aug. 18—International Photo Engravers Union—Chicago, Ill.
- Aug. 18—Wisconsin State Federation of Labor—Green Bay.
- Aug. 18—Utah State Federation of Labor—Provo.
- Sept. 8—Amal. Ass'n Street and Electric Ry.—Los Angeles.
- Sept. 8—International Chemical Workers—Washington, D. C.
- Sept. 8—Nebraska State Federation of Labor—Hastings.
- Sept. 8—Kentucky State Federation of Labor—Bowling Green.
- Sept. 9—Connecticut State Federation of Labor—Undecided.
- Sept. 9—United Ass'n Plumbers and Steamfitters—Undecided.
- Sept. 15—Ohio State Federation of Labor—Cincinnati.
- Sept. 15—Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Wks.—Milwaukee.

## THE MARCH OF LABOR

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- Sept. 16—Minnesota State Federation of Labor—Hibbing.
- Sept. 16—Brotherhood Railroad Trainmen—Miami Beach, Fla.
- Sept. 20—New Hampshire State Federation of Labor—Concord.
- Sept. 20—American Wire Weavers Protective Assn.—New York City.
- Sept.—Mississippi State Federation of Labor—Jackson.
- Sept. 22—Illinois State Federation of Labor—Peoria.
- Sept. 11—Oklahoma State Federation of Labor—McAlester.
- Sept. 11—Arizona State Federation of Labor—Tucson.
- Sept. 12—Int. Union Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers—Los Angeles.
- Sept. 25—West Virginia State Federation of Labor—Charleston.
- Sept. 29—Metal Trades Department—San Francisco.
- Oct. 1—Building and Construction Trades Dept.—San Francisco.
- Oct. 2—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Carlsbad.
- Oct. 3—Union Label Trades Department—San Francisco.
- \*Oct.—Railway Mail Association—Jacksonville, Fla.
- Oct. 6—International Asbestos Workers—Undecided.
- Oct. 20—Commercial Telegraphers Union—Los Angeles.
- Nov. 17—International Automobile Workers—Milwaukee.
- Dec. 6—International Bill Posters—Chicago.

\*Date not definitely set.  
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