

52

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XVII; NO. 29

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1948

Subscription \$2.00 Per Year

## EMPLOYMENT GAINED STABILITY IN 1947; BLS SAYS DECLINE IN SEPARATIONS

Washington, D. C.—Data prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the month of November reflected the growing stability in employment in industry during the year 1947.

In its regular monthly release, the BLS reported that both quit and layoff rates declined in November, with total separations down from 50 to 40 per 1,000 employes on the payrolls.

While labor turnover usually decreases during the fourth quarter of the year, separation rates for each month of 1947 have been consistently below those for the comparable months of the preceding five years. Much of the stability during 1947, compared with 1946, is attributable to the smoother flow of materials and production and to the "settling down" of veterans in regular jobs.

Both the quit and lay-off rates declined in November. Quits fell from a rate of 36 to 27 per 1,000 employes, as voluntary job shifting generally decreased during the pre-Christmas period. Lay-offs eased down to 8 per 1,000. While slightly above the level of November, 1946, the rate was well below those of the previous years.

With a reduction in the need for replacements, the hiring rate also dropped, from 55 per 1,000 in October to 47 in November. This was the lowest rate for any month in 1947 and for any November since 1941.

While declines in both hires and separations were general throughout the manufacturing industries, the rates dropped more sharply in the durable than in the nondurable goods division. Improved material supplies and a continued high level of demand were reflected in a significant decrease in the lay-off rate for the hard goods industries as a whole. For the non-durable, however, the lay-off rate rose somewhat as a result of seasonal declines in activity in the food, tobacco, and apparel industry decreased in about the same proportions in the hard and soft goods divisions.

## HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON LABOR EXTENSION SERVICE

Washington, D. C. — Hearings on S. 1390 proposing the establishment of a labor extension service are scheduled to begin on February 16 before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee of Labor and Public Welfare.

The bill, which will establish a labor educational service similar to the agricultural extension service, has the complete backing of the American Federation of Labor.

The 66th annual convention of the AFL went on record in favor of the bill when it passed a resolution calling for "the immediate establishment of a labor extension service to workers throughout the nation."

## Taft-Hartley Law Exposed!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER  
(Members of the law firm of Padway, Woll, Thatcher, Glenn and Wilson, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)

This is the ninth of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said:

## END SEEN FOR RUSSIAN-DOMINATED WFTU; BRITISH PROTEST SOVIET INFLUENCE

Washington, D. C.—The virtual end of the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions was seen here as the result of recent developments in the international labor field.

The basis for the belief in the early demise of the federation is the recent action of Arthur Deakin, federation president and general secretary of the British Transport and General Workers Union, in accusing the federation of acting under Soviet control by refusing to call a conference of its executive bureau to discuss the European Recovery Program.

This action is taken to mean that the British Trades Union Congress, which affiliated with the WFTU, will now throw its support behind the AFL-sponsored meeting of free trade unions of sixteen European nations which is scheduled for next month in Brussels. It is expected that a new international labor organization, excluding the Russians, may develop from this forthcoming conference.

In explanation of his stand, Mr. Deakin said that last November the executive bureau of the WFTU decided to hold its next meeting before the end of February and to hold a conference of the trades secretariat not later than the middle of January.

"Both these decisions, it seems," said Mr. Deakin, "are now to be ignored following discussions between the secretary general and representatives of the All-Central Council of Soviet Unions."

According to Mr. Deakin, there was a majority in the executive bureau desirous of holding these meetings and "it was only when the Soviet representatives refused to attend that the others changed their opinion."

"If, therefore, the position is now that the WFTU is to be merely a political body dealing only with those questions acceptable to the U. S. S. R., we know where we stand," he continued. "In other words, if there is to be a line-up of these national centers accepting the policy laid down by the Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) against those who don't, then this decision must be regarded as a reversal of the policy laid down by the London and Paris conferences of the WFTU which sought to establish world trade union unity on the broadest possible basis of mutual help."

## NO. 9 — THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW — (Continued)

### 14. "Security Against Abuse of Health and Welfare Funds"

The final alleged, "privilege" granted under the act is found in the regulations imposed upon the establishment and use of health and welfare funds. Most health and welfare funds were already established for the same purposes as specified in the act, and such funds were, for the most part, administered as prescribed in the act. The principle objection which can be made to the regulation is that the number of possible objects of health and welfare funds has been too greatly limited. As our economy has evolved, it has been found that there are many types of security provisions which are necessary in particular industries, and the present law prevents the establishment of funds to meet these particular situations.

The foregoing, then, are the fourteen "privileges" which have descended on the workingman without his knowledge like a legacy. More truthfully could the author of the "Post" article have stated that these were the fourteen privileges which have descended on the workingman without his knowledge like a ton of bricks, or like a legacy of a white elephant. To anyone with even a superficial knowledge of the functioning of the trade union movement in our modern industrial economy, it is obvious that for every "claimed" gain which the workingman has been accorded under the Taft-Hartley Act, the workingman has, at the same time, been accorded a hundred detriments. Indeed, so vicious are many of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act that labor would have been better off with an outright repeal of the Wagner Act. This is said with full knowledge and appreciation of the tremendous benefits which that act did confer upon the workers of this country.

## LIVESTOCK MARKETS

### FEEL PRICE SLUMP

Chicago. — One of the biggest price breaks in the history of the livestock trade swept the big corn belt stockyards here.

Hogs sold from \$1 to \$4 lower than last week's closing levels, which were \$1.50 to \$3 lower than those of the week before.

Declining prices last week prompted farmers to unload 30 per cent more hogs at the 12 major markets and as a result the price tumbled. Even at the drastically lower prices, 4000 hogs went unsold at Chicago and were held over.

## Labor's Political League In Action

### JOSEPH D. KEENAN NAMED TO HIGH LEAGUE POST; FUNDS DRIVE ON

Washington, D. C.—Labor's League for Political Education has swung into action on four fronts, it was announced.

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED 1,000,000 IN DECEMBER

Washington, D. C. — Employment in the nation's automobile industry passed the 1,000,000 mark in December for the first time in history, the United States Employment Service reported.

Outlook for the industry, according to labor market reports from key automotive centers, "appears very good," the USES survey disclosed.

The report showed that the 1929 production record of 5,400,000 cars "may be equaled or topped, but only if there is an even flow of materials, no serious labor-management difficulties, and conversion to new models does not severely disrupt production schedules."

The USES summary on the automotive industry, in part, says: "Reporting plants expected to add about 20,000 workers between December and April, although many establishments are extremely reluctant to make any predictions in view of the scarcity of materials and anticipated conversions to new models."

"Most of the employment increase will occur in Michigan and three-fifths of the expansion requirements is in plants engaged in the manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles. Plants manufacturing passenger car bodies are expected to account for slightly more than one-fifth of the increase. Other segments of the industry will gain slightly or remain unchanged."

"On the basis of recent experience of the industry, between 30,000 and 38,000 workers will be required each month to meet replacement needs."

## BALTIMORE PRINTERS WIN RAISE WITHOUT CONTRACT

Baltimore. — Charles V. Brannock, president of Local 12 of the AFL's International Typographical Union, announced that printers have won a wage increase of 22 cents an hour from newspaper publishers here.

Brannock said no contract was signed and there was no commitment as to the duration of the raise or any other matter.

The wage boost granted raises the pay scale to \$2.27 an hour for day employes, 2.40 for night workers, and \$2.54 for third-shift workers.

1—Appointment of Joseph D. Keenan, as assistant to the executive officers of the league, was announced by National Chairman William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Mr. Keenan, Secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, served during the war as Vice Chairman of the War Production Board and later as labor adviser to General Clay in the American-occupied zone of Germany. An energetic organizer, he will undertake the task of setting up the American Federation of Labor's political arm as a powerful force in the 1948 campaign.

2—Mr. Green and Mr. Meany issued an appeal to all affiliated unions to begin a concerted drive among their members for voluntary contributions of \$1 or more to finance the league's activities.

3—National headquarters for the league will be opened on March 1 at 1525 H St. N. W., Washington, D. C., a historic site facing the White House across Lafayette Park.

4—A call was sent out for a national conference on March 10 at the Washington Hotel of the Presidents of all State Federations of Labor. The league's Administrative Committee, which is scheduled to meet in Washington on March 9, will stay over for the conference with the state representatives. The purpose of this meeting is to map perfect teamwork between the league's national organization and the state branches to be set up under the State Federations of Labor.

A number of state organizations, especially those where primary elections are to be held early, already have started functioning on the political front, Mr. Green said.

He disclosed that a subcommittee of the league's Administrative Committee is now canvassing the field for candidates for the job of executive director of ILPE. The recommendations will be submitted to the Administrative Committee at the March 9 meeting and it is likely that a choice will be made and announced at that time.

## AFL OFFICIAL NAMED FOR PA. STATE LABOR POST

Harrisburg, Pa.—John J. Burns, secretary-treasurer of Local 491 of the AFL's Teamsters Union, was appointed to the \$7,000 post as deputy secretary of labor and industry by Governor James H. Duff.

Burns, who is 44, will succeed David Williams of Harrisburg, who resigned from the state service.