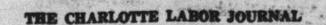
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SPIRIT OF LABOR DAY 1948

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MEANY'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1) that the reactionaries have been movement has been "live and let having a field day in the past live." In the past 100 years, milthree years in a number of state lions of people left Europe and legislatures, with the result that came to America because 'they today hostile state laws, of varying degrees of severity, are oper- No one circumstance has contrib-(Continued from Page 1) ating in more than half the states ly to the phenomenal rise of our

of the Union. The injuries inflicted upon

the tens of millions of average wage-earning citizens since the end of World War II have been dealt out to us by the reactionaries of business and politics whose grip on Federal and state law-making bodies is not yet complete. There are quite a few items on their program for the American labor movement which they are keeping veiled for the present. While for the most part the National Association of Manufacturers and its unholy agents and allies have done a good job of guarding the secrets of ther future warfare against organized labor, enough has leaked out to make clear that labor's enemies have in store new measures so drastic as to make even the Taft-Hartley Act look mild by contrast. not only to workers but to all shown.

calls for "war to the death" be- bor, as they desire, but the utter tween employers on the one side defeat of the initiators of the and workers on the other side, struggle, the powerful reactionary our idea in the American labor wing of Big Business. Despite the menace which we face today, I am confident that

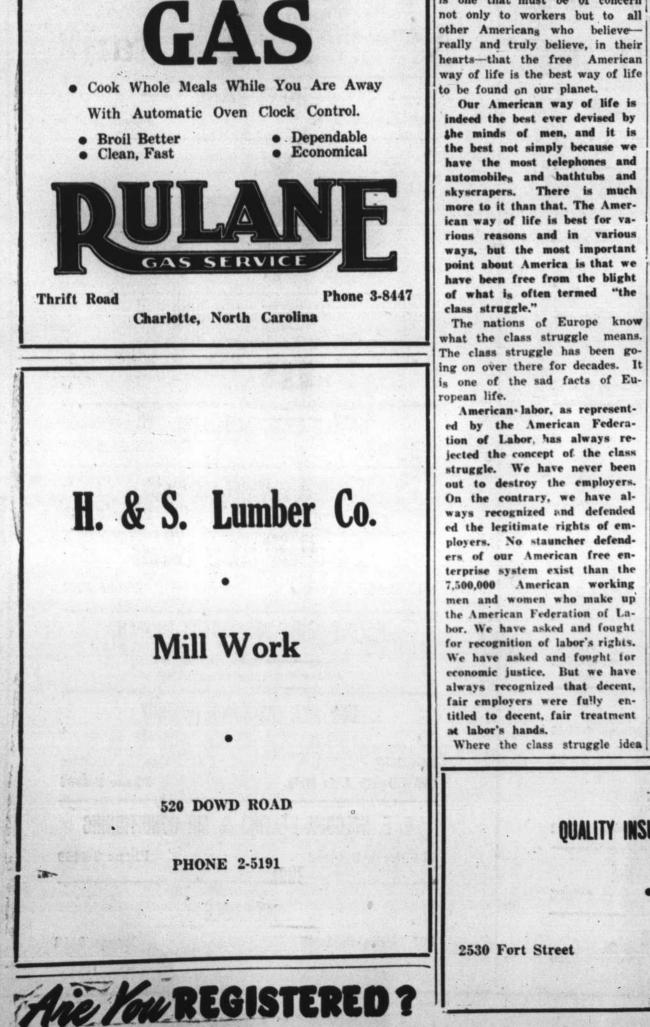
we can soon again move forward on the road to a better were sick of the class struggle. day for America's workers. The past record of the American uted more directly or more vital-Federation of Labor indicates beyond question that strong opnation than the absence of the position will bring out even ruinous class struggle. America stronger labor's will to proghas grown mighty and it has

> MAN HOURS DECREASE PER UNIT OF PRODUCT

Association of Manufacturers New York .- The average numand certain legislators have permitted their hatred of organber of man-hours expended for ized labor to blind them to this each unit of product was three fundamental fact. Like the toper cent less in 1945 than in 1939 talitarians of the Left, but in the manufacture of selected without the same deliberate types of general purpose indusplanning and awareness of what they are doing, the contrial equipment. Robert R. Behtrolling clique of the NAM and low, regional director of the Butheir federal and state legislareau of Labor Statistics Departtive cohorts have been taking ment of Labor, reported. steps to bring the nation ever

closer to the precipice of the Between 1939 and 1942, he explained, the index of unit man-American labor has always re- hour requirements declined steadfused to believe that this deadly ily to a point five per cent below disease will ever catch hold here. that of 1939, as important gains Yes, American labor does have We have never wanted it. We do in manufacturing efficiency were serious matters to consider on not want it now. The class made. During 1943 and 1944, this Labor Day. To my mind, struggle is an evil thing, as the however, the trend was reversed. the most serious problem of all tragic experiences of other peo- By 1944, man-hours expended for is one that must be of concern ples, in other lands, have amply each unit had increased to about the same level as in the base other Americans who believe- But the NAM and other re- year, 1939. Average unit-man actionaries who are driving to hour requirements decreased three





to be found on our planet. Our American way of life is indeed the best ever devised by the minds of men, and it is the best not simply because we have the most telephones and automobiles and bathtubs and men and women. skyscrapers. There is much more to it than that. The American way of life is best for various reasons and in various ways, but the most important point about America is that we have been free from the blight of what is often termed "the class struggle." The nations of Europe know what the class struggle means. The class struggle has been going on over there for decades. It is one of the sad facts of Eu-American labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, has always rejected the concept of the class struggle. We have never been out to destroy the employers. On the contrary, we have always recognized and defended ed the legitimate rights of employers. No stauncher defenders of our American free enterprise system exist than the 7,500,000 American working and sparkle. men and women who make up the American Federation of Labor. We have asked and fought cate of fabrics. for recognition of labor's rights. Odorless, thorough cleaning. We have asked and fought for economic justice. But we have always recognized that decent, fair employers were fully entitled to decent, fair treatment at labor's hands. Where the class struggle idea QUALITY INSULATING CO.

bring about a condition in which the emergence of the class struggle concept would be inevitable even in democratic America had better stop and reflect for a moment-if they can spare that much time from their plottings against working

prospered, and none have pros-

pered more than the employers of

And yet today the National

the nation.

class struggle.

Let them ponder and ponder well that, if there is going to be a class struggle in America, it can have only one result, only one outcome-not the crushing of la-



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