



# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL



VOL. XVIII; NO. 39

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1949

Subscription \$2.00 Per Year

## BUILDING TRADES MEET IN CHARLOTTE FEB. 13

### AFL Supports Bill Abolishing T-H Law; Okay Of The Senate Committee Believed Assured

BACKING IS ANNOUNCED BY COUNCIL AFTER A CAREFUL SCRUTINY

Miami.—After spending many hours in a careful, section-by-section review of the Truman Administration's bill restoring the Wagner Act with a limited number of amendments, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor Officially announced that it will support the measure wiping out the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.

The Council's backing had been indicated from the moment the bill was introduced, but the AFL leaders temporarily withheld a formal statement until they had had the opportunity to scrutinize the measure thoroughly with the assistance of legal counsel.

AFL President William Green informed correspondents that the Council had reached a unanimous decision to support the Administration's bill without important reservations. He added that he would testify before the Senate Labor Committee, on February 10, now scheduled as the final day of hearings on the bill.

Executive Council members noted with satisfaction that the Administration bill declares that the Taft-Hartley Act, which has handcuffed organized labor since 1947, is "hereby repealed" and that the Wagner Act of 1935 is "hereby reenacted."

The repeal of the vicious anti-labor statute and the reinstatement of the Wagner Act, which was fair to both management and labor and fostered genuine collective bargaining, were written into the new bill in conformity with the solemn pledges of the Democratic Party in the last election campaign.

The Administration bill also contains some amendments to the old Wagner Act as recommended to Congress by President Truman.

Mr. Green, responding to pointed questions from reporters in regard to the "national emergency" provisions of the new bill, said the Executive Council fully approved of these provisions as now phrased. The bill calls for a 30-day "cooling-off" period and no resort to injunctions against labor at the end of the "cooling-off" period.

The AFL leader told reporters he will support the repeal bill when he appears before the Senate Labor Committee but may suggest an amendment guaran-

teeing the right of skilled craftsmen to have their own bargaining unit in an industrial plant. This suggestion and possibly some minor changes in language probably would be the extent of the AFL's proposals, Mr. Green indicated at the press conference. As the Executive Council's meeting neared its close, the AFL leaders issued a statement holding Soviet Russia solely and entirely responsible for the "lack of progress toward the attainment of world peace and security."

The Council denounced the latest insincere bid by Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator, for a so-called "peace" talk with President Truman. The transparent Russian maneuver was called "an unmitigated sham."

The Council, in another statement, urged Congress to give immediate consideration to bills granting pay increases to federal government employees. The Council pointed out that wages of the average government employe are "lagging considerably behind those paid in private industry."

Applauding the breakup of the Communist puppet organization calling itself the "World Federation of Trade Unions," the Executive Council called for the formation of "a genuine international federation of trade unions" and pledged that the AFL will gladly co-operate with the free unions of all countries, large and small, "to hasten the day of their unification into one world federation of labor dedicated to the principles of freedom, social justice and lasting peace."

The pending reaffiliation of the International Association of Machinists was under discussion at the Executive Council session. AFL and IAM peace committees have been conferring. The Council received a report on the progress of the talks between the Federation and the presently unaffiliated union.

Sam's growing, but his collar isn't.....



Sam Jennings

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### Carpenters Council Also Meets Here Sat. Night

The regular monthly meeting of the North Carolina Building Trades Council (AFL) will be held in Charlotte Sunday beginning at 10 o'clock in Carpenter's Hall, 920 West Trade Street. This is the first meeting of the council to be held in Charlotte for several months, as each monthly meeting is held in other cities of the state on a rotating plan.

Much business comes up for discussion and disposal each month before this body and according to officials of the organization considerable business of importance is to be transacted here Sunday.

A. T. Russ of Asheville, is president of the North Carolina Council, and H. E. Setzer is secretary-treasurer.

#### CARPENTERS MEET SATURDAY

The North Carolina State Council of Carpenters and Joiners of America will hold their regular monthly session in Charlotte this month also, the meeting being scheduled for Saturday night at 7:00 o'clock in the Carpenters Hall at 920 West Trade Street.

The Carpenters meeting is largely attended each month by delegates from all parts of the state and it is one of the largest meetings of AFL unions in the State. Like the meetings of the State Building Trades Council the Carpenters meetings also rotate each month.

Ellis Wright is president of the State Carpenters' Council.

### Central Labor Union Notes

The regular bi-monthly meetings of Charlotte Central Labor Union are now being held in the new Carpenters Hall at 920 West Trade street. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday nights of each month at 7:30 o'clock. The meeting of the Central Body this week was an interesting one. Many matters were up for discussion and disposal. The reports of local affiliated unions were well received and delegates from local unions all reported their members at work and doing well.

The Sheet Metal Workers had representatives present and reported that their local has voted to affiliate with the local branch of the American Federation of Labor. The credentials will perhaps be received at the next meeting.

The Federal Labor Union has sent in its quota of new dele-

gates and they were ordered seated.

The Central Labor Union committee on arrangements for the August meeting of the North Carolina Federation of Labor convention has been appointed and probably will have a lively report at an early date. John Lovett, local Carpenter Business Manager, has been named chairman of this important committee.

The Government Employees Union was represented at the February meeting by Brother Knight, who reported that his union has recently taken in 10 new members. Brother J. J. Thomas of the Firemen's union reported that his association is now endeavoring to get the recognition of the North Carolina General Assembly in the making of laws for the better protection of the State's firefighters.

### Council Asks Billions For Education Aid, Pushes Health Program and Civil Rights

AFL LEADERS WELCOME CHANCE TO ENACT SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWS AS BUTTRESS OF FREEDOM; OPPOSITION TO SCHEVENELS IS STRONG

Miami.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in session here, called upon Congress to provide \$1,000,000,000 in federal aid to education. The council said the \$300,000,000 aid bill now under consideration in Washington is inadequate to assure an effective program. "The shortcomings of our present educational system are a reflection upon our American democracy which must have a well-educated and well-informed citizenry in order to remain vital and dynamic," the Executive Council declared. "Because of the financial handicaps of many of our states, which prevent them from providing proper school facilities and decent standards for teachers, federal aid to education is a 'must.'"

"We do not believe that the legislation now being considered is adequate to the needs of the nation. The \$300,000,000 fund which is proposed for federal aid to the states is not sufficient to insure an effective program. The American Federation of Labor believes that America is wealthy enough to set aside a billion dollar fund for this essential purpose. Surely, the education of our children is the soundest and most constructive investment we can make for the future of our people and our democracy."

The Executive Council called for the enactment of social security legislation to increase present benefits, to widen present coverage, to institute disability insurance, to nationalize and improve the unemployment compensation system, and to inaugurate a national health program, "including health insurance, medical research, increase in health facilities and training of more personnel."

The council said the nation faces "the most promising opportunity in more than a decade" to secure the enactment of a broad program of social justice legislation "to strengthen and fortify the American way of life."

"The new 81st Congress has

come to office with a clear mandate from the people to put this program into action without undue delay," the AFL's top leaders declared. "The Executive Council is confident that the new Congress will live up to its campaign promises."

The council lashed out at the irresponsible charges of reactionaries that social justice legislation is "socialistic" or "destructive of American freedoms." These allegations are absolutely baseless, the council said, adding that "to the extent that real social security is provided for the American people, the free enterprise system will become correspondingly secure against ideological attacks."

The council emphasized that the AFL's program of social justice legislation "will not only provide far greater enjoyment of freedom and economic opportunity to all the American people but will also, at the same time, serve to buttress and support the free enterprise system."

Civil rights received the attention of the top leadership of the American Federation of Labor. In a short statement, the council said:

"The convention of the American Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed the civil rights

program recommended to Congress by President Truman. We will press for its adoption in order to protect the democratic rights and freedoms of minority groups."

Taking note of the proposal now before Congress to lift the minimum wage, to 75 cents an hour under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Executive Council said the minimum should be set at \$1 an hour and coverage of the law broadened. The minimum is now 40 cents.

Unalterable opposition was announced to the appointment of Walter Schevenels, Belgian trade unionist, as secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the European Recovery Program. A statement of the International Labor Relations Committee, which was endorsed by the Executive Council, said:

"After careful consideration of the full report of the recent session of the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the European Recovery Program held at Berne, Switzerland, the AFL expresses its complete confidence in the position taken by its European representative, Irving Brown. We especially endorse his vigorous opposition to the selection of Walter Schevenels as secretary of the TUAC."

"The AFL is unalterably opposed to Mr. Schevenels because he is unfit to hold so high an office in the ranks of democratic world labor. The secretary of the TUAC must be one who commands the confidence and respect of all its national affiliates. Otherwise, he cannot secure their effective co-operation which is indispensable to the success of the ERP. Mr. Schevenels lacks this confidence and respect."

"The record of Mr. Schevenels in the former International Federation of Trade Unions shows that, though he may be an inde-

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