

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XIX; NO. 4

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1949

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year

## AFL SUPPORTS FOUR REVISIONS OF T-H ACT

### Tobin Tells Graduating Class Apprentice System Is Great Boom To Nation

OAKLAND, CALIF.—Failure to train enough key skilled workers could lose a war for the United States, Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, warned as 857 apprentices, trained in 51 trade classifications, became full-fledged journeymen.

The occasion was the second annual mass graduation of apprentices from courses operated jointly by labor, management and the public school system. California, these in the audience were told, leads the nation in apprenticeship training, and the two counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, represented in the graduation exercises, have 20 per cent of all the apprenticeship committees in the state.

Secretary Tobin said that the lesson to be drawn from World War II was "that we must learn how to apportion our strength between the armed forces and industry."

"By putting a toolmaker or patternmaker in an infantry regiment," he continued, "we might cost the lives of as many as that entire regiment for lack of production from the tools or patterns such as craftsmen could make."

Mr. Tobin asserted that the skilled workers he had in mind could not be turned out on an emergency basis, and that "the training of apprentices for the skilled trade is just as important to the security of the nation as in the training of our military forces."

Both Gov. Earl Warren and John F. Shelley, president of the California State Federation of Labor, hailed the success of the state's apprenticeship program. Mr. Shelley, while in the legislature was author of the Shelley-Maloney apprenticeship act of 1939, which laid the foundation for the system.

Mr. Shelley commented that the presence of Secretary Tobin and Gov. Warren at the graduation "is proof of the dignity and essentiality of skilled craftsmanship, whether it be manual or nonmanual."

### Demand For Coal Miners Safety; 1,259,081 Killed Or Injured In Past Nineteen Years

WASHINGTON—John L. Lewis roared a demand today for a Federal safety law to prevent coal miners from being "mained, mangled and killed." The nation's coal is stained with blood, he said, citing figures to show that 1,259,081 miners were injured or killed in the past 19 years.

He spoke before a Senate labor subcommittee in support of a bill that would give Federal mine inspectors the right to close mines they think dangerous.

At present, the states handle safety enforcement. Lewis contends they fall down completely on their job.

Lewis, referring to a magician in King Arthur's court said:

"If I had the power of a Merlin, I would march that million and a quarter men past the Congress of the United States—the quick and the dead.

"I would have the ambulatory injured drag the dead after them."

"I would have the concourse flanked by five weeping members of each man's family, six and a quarter million people, wailing and lamenting."

During the course of the hearing the leader of the United Mine Workers:

1. Sneered at mine operators and the men they hire to represent them, especially the men they hire, since they have appeared here to oppose this bill. At one time or another, he referred to them as "lobbyists," "human leeches" and "polecats."
2. Made a 36-minute, extemporaneous speech during which he

### Throngs Attend Union Industries Show



Crowds like that above thronged the vast Public Auditorium in Cleveland to witness the spectacle presented by the 1949 version of the Union Industries Show, an annual event sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department to tell the public the story of successful labor-management relations. The photo shows the main floor of the exhibit hall. Similar scenes were the rule in a larger basement area.

### BELL TELEPHONE ELECTION IS OF INTEREST TO AFL

J. L. Rhodes, Regional Director of the American Federation of Labor has advised the National Labor Relations Board that the AFL has an interest in the fight over which union will represent the Southern Bell's employees in collective bargaining, according to a spokesman for the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Recently the Communications Workers of America, which has been the bargaining agent for Bell employees, announced that as a result of an election the Union's members had voted to affiliate with CIO.

The Company challenged this action on grounds that it felt that CIO affiliation was not in accord with the majority wishes of the telephone workers.



Typical of the exhibits which drew the admiring glances of thousands of spectators was that of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters shown above. Union members are demonstrating the skill and techniques required in their trade.

### Employers Advised By Kiplinger Magazine To Read Labor Papers

Employers, be sure to read the labor press; it will be an "aid to better plant management."

That advice comes not from some circulation-hungry labor editor, but from a magazine for businessmen — Kiplinger Magazine, sister publication of the "in-the-know" Kiplinger Letter.

The magazine estimates that the 700 to 900 union papers in the country are read by about 20,000,000 adults.

"One of the best ways to find out (what the unions are thinking) is to read union newspapers," Kiplinger says.

"They give an accurate reflection of labor thought, and often provide a solid tip-off to possible future issues. They're far better than any makeshift pipeline to the union's inner councils."

Kiplinger says that business associations such as the U. S. Chamber of Commerce "make it a steady habit to read a few key labor sheets: CIO News (circulation: 160,000), Labor, Mine Workers' Journal (about 600,000), AFL weekly clip sheet to its member unions, and the CIO's high-brow Economic Outlook" — Work.

PHILADELPHIA — A 4-day strike of more than 7,000 carpenters in the Philadelphia area ended in agreement on a wage increase of 15 cents an hour.

Representatives of the Metropolitan District Council of Carpenters (AFL), meeting with officers of the General Building Contractors Association in the latter headquarters, agreed to send their men back to work at the usual starting time at an hourly rate of \$2.40.

### ITU Demands NLRB Ban Denham's Injunction Club

WASHINGTON—Attorneys for the AFL's International Typographical Union urged the National Labor Relations Board to withdraw from Robert N. Denham, its general counsel, authority to ask for court injunctions in unfair practice cases brought under the Taft-Hartley law because he had abused his discretion.

They criticized the 5-man board too, asserting that it had put the union through a needlessly long and expensive trial.

Henry Kaiser, delivering the union's final arguments in the Taft-Hartley Act case brought by the American Newspaper Publishers Association, said that Mr. Denham was guilty of "contemptible, craven, knuckling down to the pressure" of the newspaper industry.

The ANPA case was started in the fall of 1947, and the union was enjoined by a federal court in Indianapolis in March, 1948, pending the board's disposition of the publisher's charges. The main accusation against the union is violation of the law's anti-closed shop section.

Mr. Denham, who is independent of the board, does not concede that his discretionary authority to seek injunctions is a grant from the board. He holds that the authority is conferred by law.

Gerhard P. Van Arkel, associate of Mr. Kaiser, accused the board of "shoddy treatment" of the union's motion early in the case to dismiss one of the charges in the complaint. This referred to a charge that the ITU had

### Opposed To Any Provisions Authorizing The Issuing Of Court Injunctions In Disputes

CLEVELAND—The AFL executive council today agreed unanimously to four amendments in the Truman administration's original bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley act. The concessions were made in conferences with government leaders, President William Green said. The council ratified that action.

### WITH VIOLATION OF NATURALIZATION LAWS

SAN FRANCISCO — Harry Bridges, head of CIO Longshoremen, was indicted by the Federal grand jury today.

The indictment accused him of conspiracy to obstruct and defeat the naturalization laws, and of perjury.

Two other men were indicted with the left-wing longshore leader. They are Henry Schmidt and J. R. Robertson, both officials of the ILWU. Bail was set at \$5,000 each.

The three were charged in one count with conspiracy to defraud the United States by obstructing and defeating the proper administration of the naturalization laws, between June and October, 1945.

A second count charged Bridges with perjury. It accused him, on September 17, 1945, at his naturalization hearing, of swearing falsely that he was not a member of the Communist party.

A third count charged Schmidt and Robertson with perjury, alleging that they, as witnesses in the hearing, swore falsely, knowing it to be false, that Bridges was not a member of the Communist party.

Schmidt is a member of the Longshore Coast Labor Relations committee. Robertson is first vice president of the ILWU.

### NOTICE

The reason this issue of The Journal is late is due to an extensive job of remodeling which has been going on in our plant since the first of May which put our facilities out of order until it was completed.

The back wall on our building was ready to topple over and the landlord was compelled to rebuild the wall at once. The need was so urgent that only little notice could be given us. While this work was underway we asked the landlord to make other improvements and from now on we will have The Journal to you on time each week.

For this delay we are deeply apologetic and thank our subscribers and advertisers for their patience. All back issues of The Journal will be coming to you in short order.

THE PUBLISHER.

### Polio Precautions



Children should guard against sudden chilling during the summer polio epidemic season. Wet shoes and clothing should be removed at once and extra blankets and heavier clothing kept handy for sudden weather changes.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

One would allow presidential seizure for 30 days of "any struck plant or industry whose idleness threatens to bring about a national emergency." The AFL also agreed to these amendments:

1. A requirement that employers as well as union leaders sign non-Communist affidavits.
2. A requirement for filing of financial reports by unions.
3. A guarantee of free speech for employers in dealing with their workers, short of intimidation or coercion.

In other respects, the AFL stood pat for the Thomas-Lesinski bill offered by the administration early in the 81st session of Congress. That calls for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act with "certain improvements" which Mr. Truman propose.

The AFL council ended its quarterly meeting with the Taft-Hartley statement. It emphatically declared itself opposed to "any provision authorizing the issuance of court injunctions in labor-management disputes."

The injunction weapon was inserted in a compromise bill in the House, but the whole question was referred back to committee after close roll call votes. Many AFL leaders think the injunction provision was aimed at stopping a possible coal strike this summer by John L. Lewis' coal miners.

The recurring question of affiliation of the miners with the AFL came up again. Lewis and Green lunched in Washington last week. Green said he reported on that conversation to the council.

But he expressed the view at a news conference that re-affiliation of Lewis and his 600,000 miners—who walked out in 1947 for the second time—was not imminent.

Green said:

"There's nothing that has taken place or statement made to warrant the conclusion that he will become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor for the present at least."

"I might say 'no' and 'yes' to the question whether he is considering affiliation. I don't think he has any inclination to become affiliated now, but he is rather in favor of it some time in the future."

"There were no conditions attached. I'm sure that when he returns it will be unconditionally. The last convention of the AFL expressed regret that he had gone and hoped that he would return. That was expressed by the convention itself."

The council will meet August 15 in Toronto, Canada.

### FACTORY JOBS ON DECLINE IN NEW YORK, CORSI SAYS

NEW YORK CITY — Factory employment in New York State continued its downward trend in April with an estimated drop of 59,900 workers from March, according to a report by Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi, production workers' payrolls decreased 5.4 per cent.

Seasonal factors, strikes and lack of orders were mainly responsible for the drop and losses occurred in all major industrial groups.

Seasonal curtailment in all branches of the apparel industry caused the heaviest losses in both employment and payrolls.