Thursday, September 1, 1949

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

PAGE SEVEN

GREETINGS TO LABOR

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A 150-page illustrated book, labor, free unions, social con-"The Gift of Freedom," de- science, sacred regard for indiscribing the level of living-on vidual dignity, and economic cathe job and off-of the American pacity. Even more than our maworker, has been released by the terial treasure "we want to share those free institutions of free Bureau of Labor Statistics. men which are imbedded in the The book, according to bureau very marrow of any democratic officials, is "designed to inform social structure. That indeed is the worker in foreign countries the gift of freedom." how his American counterpart Copies are available for 55

lives." Eight chapters describe cents from the Superintendent of in detail: workers' employment Documents, Government Printing characteristics; the economic ba- Office, Washington, D. C. sis for their living standards;

what their wages will buy in terms of an hour's work; their Factory Workers' standards of living; working con-**Average Earnings** ditions and labor legislation; the history, development and in-**Hold Steady** fluence of the labor movement; Washington. - Weekly earnings

and the historical basis for personal and political freedom. The volume takes its title from the theme of a 5-page introduction which refers to Walt Whitman's conception of America "as an inheritor and protector of world liberty" bound by a repon- Labor Statistics.

sibility both "fearsome and sacred." By example and by other means as well, it states we must make good on our obligation the bureau said. with respect to "this gift of

freedom American democracy the work-week for the automobile held only in trust." Our ability to do so, the intro- the durable goods division as a duction states is tested by (1) whole declined slightly from 39.3

whether workers prosper as the economy as a whole prospers; (2) the flexibility of the system in permitting "freedom of movement, choice, conscience and opportunity;" and (3) the progressive improvement of the status and influence of the worker. The facts are measurable, the intro-

duction continues, because "one of the benefits of a free society is the right of free inquiry, and Americans have made extensive use of that right."

It warns that it is "not an

Returning to the average for the first quarter of this year, the workweek for the nondurable goods ineconomic and social system alone dustries increased slightly for the which guarantees prosperity and third consecutive month.

for the 11,700,000 production-

workers in the nation's factories

averaged \$53.66 in mid - July.

1949, continuing at the preceding

month's level, according to prelim-

inary estimates made vailable by

the Labor Department's Bureau of

The factory work-week, at 38.8

hours, maintained the slight up-

turn reported for June, but aver-

aged about 1 hour below July, 1948,

Despite a significant advance in

group, average weekly hours for

Shorter work-weeks were report-

ed by the iron and steel, electrical

machinery, and the lumber prod-

ucts groups, reflecting in part hol-

iday and vacation shutdowns in ad-

dition to the continuance of re-

Responding to record levels of

output, weekly earnings for auto-

mobile parts and assembling estab-

lishments advanced to an all-time

to 39 hours over the month.

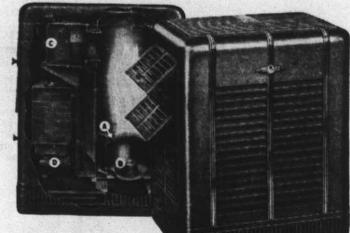
duced business purchasing.

high in mid-July.

security," but rather that any Following the low level of weeksystem which "provides freedom ly earnings for April, the average to the individual, and allows him for the soft goods division has to participate to the fullest ex- moved upward to about the Detent to the solution of problems cember, 1948, peak. Moderately which beset it, stand the greatest lengthened work-weeks were again chance of maximum utilization reported by the textile, apparel and of its human and natural re- leather groups. sources."

The advance from 41.7 to 42.2





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g candidly ato "flaws" in hours for the food group reflects the operation of the American the further continuance of summer system, it contends that "our seasonal expansion in most food mistakes impede but do not halt processing industries. our progress or change our di-

rection." We possess the combination of circumstances necessary to "virile democratic leadership" and reconstruction; free

HUTCHESON URGES LABOR TO UP POLITICAL DRIVE

Bend, Ore., Aug. 9 .- Speaking to joint convention of three district councils of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, President William Hutcheson urged stronger political action on the part of labor for 1950.

Hutcheson told the carpenters that it was especially necessary to get the wives and relatives of union members registered so that a full labor vote could wipe out the present antilabor majority in the Senate and House.

GREETINGS

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GREETINGS

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Brother, you're a smart husband and a wise borrower!

