

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

OLDEST LABOR PUBLICATION IN THE TWO CAROLINAS

Published at Charlotte, North Carolina

H. A. Stalls, Editor and Publisher W. M. Witter, Associate Editor
R. G. Thomas, Greensboro Field Representative

Entered as second-class mail matter September 11, 1931, at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Oldest Bona Fide AFL Newspaper in North Carolina, consistently serving the American Federation of Labor and its members since it was founded, May 12, 1931. Approved by the American Federation of Labor in 1931.

Endorsed by Charlotte Typographical Union, Number 338, An Affiliate of Charlotte Central Labor Union and the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

News Services: American Federation of Labor, U. S. and North Carolina Departments of Labor, and Southern Labor Press Association.

The Labor Journal will not be responsible for the opinions of correspondents, but any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Labor Journal will be corrected when called to the attention of the publisher. Correspondence and Open Forum opinions solicited, but The Journal reserves the right to reject objectionable reading matter and advertising at all times.

MEMBER SOUTHERN LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION



"LET THE SUNLIGHT OF A FREE PRESS SHINE IN DARK PLACES"

SOUTHERN LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY BIBLE THOUGHT

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."—Matthew 11:28-30.

WBT REFUSES ARBITRATION

For years the American Federation of Labor has promoted conciliation and arbitration in the settlement of disputes involving its members and this idea has been generally accepted by employers and workers alike when contract negotiations and other matters reach the point where some plan has to be resorted to to break an existing deadlock. The refusal of the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company, operators of Radio Station WBT, to arbitrate a disagreement which arose in contract negotiations several weeks ago, no doubt brought about the discharge by the radio station management of 10 radio broadcast technicians, who are members of Local 1229 of the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers, stands condemned by all members of American Federation of Labor Unions in Charlotte.

AFL unionists, of which the Radio Technicians are a vital parcel and part, have watched with interest the negotiations that have been under way between the Technicians and WBT, as all unions are desirous of and many do have agreements with employers which provide for arbitration in all matters at dispute, and especially the matter of hiring and firing of workers.

Charlotte union members have been told that several weeks ago an impasse had been reached between WBT and Technician negotiators over a clause in the proposed new contract governing the hiring and discharging of union workers, and that this matter was provided for satisfactorily in the expiring agreement. However, for reasons best known to it WBT was said to have refused to recognize such a stipulation in the new agreement being negotiated this year.

In negotiations of this nature, naturally some differences arise which cannot be readily agreed to by either or both parties, but vital points are usually either submitted to arbitration or compromised before they reach that stage. The local technicians claim that they endeavored to get WBT to submit the point at issue regarding discharging members covered under the new contract to an impartial arbitrator to be named by Governor Scott, but that the station refused. This refusal on the part of WBT resulted in the union protesting WBT's stand when it began peacefully picketing the Wilder building studios eight weeks ago.

If Charlotte Labor is to judge the radio station by this action in refusing to arbitrate in the matter then local Labor must feel that the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company has acted very unjustly to a group of workers who have stood watch over the responsible positions entrusted to them over the years—day and night, Sundays and holidays, in order that newscasts, commercial and entertainment programs could be sent out over the ether waves to listeners throughout the nation and, particularly, throughout the South, over the South's oldest and one of the most profitable broadcasting stations in the nation.

International Representative John A. Thompson and the members of his IBEW certainly do and will continue to have the sympathetic support of their brother members in condemning the discharge of 10 union technicians Saturday, September 3.

AFL members throughout North Carolina and the South who have, along with other citizens, enjoyed the superb programs dispensed through the skill of IBEW technicians, join in protesting the refusal of WBT to arbitrate the dispute and also the station's sudden and high-handed methods in turning its workers adrift after, in many instances, years of faithful performance.

1949 Convention Call

To All Affiliated Unions Greetings:

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the 68th Convention of the American Federation of Labor, will be held in the Civic Auditorium, St. Paul, Minn., beginning at 10 o'clock Monday morning, October 3, 1949, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the Convention shall have been completed.

Once again we convene in annual convention—four years after the termination of World War II—moved by feelings of uncertainty and increasing disappointment. Workers everywhere are asking why, following such a long period of time, no substantial progress has been made in the negotiation of an international agreement providing for international peace and security. The facts seem to make it clear that failure to arrive at an international agreement is due to the negative, antagonistic and selfish policy of Soviet Russia. Apparently the Russian government seeks to extend and expand Communist control over certain nations of Europe, Asia and elsewhere throughout the world. The fight, therefore, for international peace and security is supplemented by a fight against the aggression of Russia and its Communist philosophy.

We want world peace, but we want it to be based upon the principles of freedom, democracy and liberty. This issue must be faced courageously and in a spirit of determination that the free people of no nation shall be forced to accept communism and Communist control against their will.

As we meet in this historic convention, labor throughout the nation is conscious of the fact that our enemies are seeking to destroy, weaken, and if possible wipe out our trade union movement through the enactment of vicious, reprehensible antilabor legislation. As a result, the fighting spirit of the workers has been aroused as never before. That fact was reflected in the election which was held last November. The record shows that unity of thought and action was developed to a high degree among working men and women and their friends everywhere. This fight against anti-labor legislation is still on. For that reason those in attendance at this convention will formulate policies designed to win victories for labor both on the political and economic field. Social security and health insurance legislation, federal aid for education, minimum wage legislation and other social justice and security legislation will and must command the attention of the officers and delegates in attendance at this convention.

Our purpose is to bring about the realization of the hopes and aspirations of labor, to seek to establish a standard of living commensurate with the requirements of American citizenship. We cherish the principles of freedom, liberty, democracy and justice as a common heritage to be preserved at any cost and transmitted to future generations. In conformity with the record made by previous conventions, those in attendance at this 68th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor will make a genuine contribution toward the realization of this great objective.

WILLIAM GREEN, President. GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

AS WE SEE IT

The following is excerpted from a radio interview by James G. Crowley, news commentator, with Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama, the sponsor of housing legislation to provide decent homes for the nation's middle-income families. The interview was heard on "As We See It," the AFL radio program broadcast each Tuesday evening by the American Broadcasting Company:

By JOHN J. SPARKMAN, United States Senator from Alabama

There are six different titles in the middle-income housing bill. Briefly, they are:

1. The first title extends what we know as FHA insurance of home mortgage loans.
2. The second title provides for the disposal of permanent and temporary war and veteran housing.
3. The third title provides for loans to non-profit co-operative for building housing.
4. The fourth title liberalizes the present GI Homes Loan Program.
5. The fifth title makes available to educational institutions of higher learning loans for the purpose of building housing for faculty and students.
6. The sixth title contains miscellaneous provisions, one of which makes \$25 million available for the handling or the mass distribution of prefabricated housing.

Where a group of people, primarily veterans, band themselves together in a nonprofit organization and agree to set up a plan for building their own housing, the bill provides that the government make loans to that co-operative, very much like the government now makes to farmers' co-operatives for different purposes, rural electric co-operatives and co-operatives of many different kinds.

People opposed to the direct loan system talk about it being something new, about our changing our method of doing business, when, as a matter of fact, throughout the years the government has made direct loans. I suppose one of the most popular programs in this country is the rural electrification co-operative program. That program has been built up on direct loans from the government to non-profit co-operatives of farmers and other people who wanted to band themselves together for the purpose of obtaining electric current.

We lend the money to those farm co-operatives for electric purposes at 2 per cent interest. In the housing bill we propose to charge co-operatives 3 per cent interest. I want to make two points clear; the plan is self-liquidating and involves no subsidy whatsoever from the government. Many of the papers in the country have editorialized against the plan and referred to it as "socialized credit," but I don't remember any such attack as that on farm co-operatives of RFC loans to business. I don't remember that businessmen ever objected to those loans when they needed them. Yet, the American Bankers Association came and testified before the Senate committee in objection to these direct housing loans.

I think it is just easier for them to say that it is "socialistic" than it is to really think it out on its merits. They said, of course, we have provided direct loans for other activities but not for housing.

As a matter of fact, in 1944 when we passed the GI Bill of Rights, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, we specifically provided that every farm veteran re-

turning from service might make application to the federal government for a loan directly, for the purpose of building a home on a farm or helping him to acquire a farm.

Nobody ever charged that with being socialistic, yet we certainly were providing direct loans to the farm veterans for housing purposes. But when it is proposed: "Let's make the same kind of arrangement for the veteran in town," the idea immediately becomes "socialistic." It just simply doesn't stand up, to my way of thinking.

All of our government loan programs have proved successful, far beyond expectation. For example, the Home Owners Corporation, which is liquidating now, is showing a profit to the United States Government.

In this bill we are trying to provide an adequate housing program for everybody with incomes above the level that would entitle them to public housing. That is, for veterans and non-veterans alike, with incomes insufficient to enable them either to rent or to buy the housing built under present high cost circumstances.

Our reason for writing in the Title 3 provision for loans to co-operatives is because about a third of our people in this country, about a third of our families, have incomes between \$2,000 and \$3,750.

Families with that income just simply can't afford to buy or to rent a house under present high cost conditions. So, we are providing this low-rate interest, three per cent, a long period of amortization, not to exceed 50 years. We are making it possible for them through co-operative action to work out some kind of program of self-maintenance to cut down the cost and save money every place possible so we can cut rent or mortgage payments down to about \$45 to \$55 a month, an amount which they can afford to pay.

By 1960, we shall need any-

where from 15 to 18 million new home units in this country; in other words, about a million and a half units a year. We hope that this program plus the program that will be put into effect under the recently enacted Housing Act of 1949, which provides for public housing, slum clearance, and rural farm housing, will produce the million and a half units a year that we need in order to catch up by 1960.

I am hopeful that the Senate will be able to pass the bill which the committee reported out and that in conference with the House we shall be able to work out a good bill.

AFL PLEDGES HELP TO EUROPEAN LABOR

Washington. — AFL President William Green pledged anew that the American Federation of Labor will continue its assistance to the free trade unions of Europe in their great efforts to further economic recovery and to defeat attempts of the Communists to spread the tenacles of totalitarianism.

In a special message of greetings to European workers on the occasion of Labor Day, Mr. Green said:

"In 1894 the Congress of the United States passed a law making Labor Day a national holiday, thus officially approving a practice labor had instituted in 1882. This is the day on which the people of America pay tribute to American labor.

"This year the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor wish to share this tribute with you.

"You have fought, as we have, for freedom. In recent years your fight was made harder. The totalitarian ideologies that threatened to overrun a continent did

not, however, succeed in weakening your will to remain free—to keep your trade union movement free.

"We have watched your struggle and tried to help you fight your way out of the ravages of war—even while you were threatened from within by those who represent the totalitarian regime to the east.

"We wish today to repledge to you, solemnly and sincerely, our continued co-operation.

"We hold for you, and for us, the highest hope and the belief that the new international organization of free trade unions will unite the world's free labor movement. Once so united, it will be impossible to prevent our progress in promoting the welfare of workers as an integral part of national world welfare.

"And we wish too to reaffirm our continued support and co-operation to restore your industries in order that you may regain self-dependence.

"We are certain, too, that out of the Marshall Plan will come a more united Europe—economically and politically. Then will come the real peace that we have all longed for and fought for, and with that peace, the dignity of mankind will have been restored. Slave labor will have vanished. The right to work, to live decently, to worship freely, will be a right belonging to all men.

"These are our hopes on this Labor Day in 1949. These are our beliefs. This is a day on which we can look forward to a future that will be peaceful and secure

Boston.—The New England Shoe and Leather Association reported that during 1948 the "shoe states"—Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire—turned out 140,422,000 pairs of shoes.

BOGGETT
211 E. Park Ave. Phone 6179
LUMBER CO.
It Pays To Trade With

A HOMELIKE MORTUARY
AMBULANCE PHONE 6129
Handle-Dealers, Inc.

New and Reconditioned PIANOS
For the best value in NEW or reconditioned pianos, select yours from our stock of nearly 100 instruments. Setonway, Mathushek, Winter, Howard, and many others. Prices to suit everyone.

ANDREWS MUSIC CO.
"Our 55th Year"
"Steinway Headquarters"
231 North Tryon Street

START A Savings Account NOW
THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK
Charlotte, N. C.
MEMBER F.O.C.

CREATORS OF REASONABLE DRUG PRICES.
Eckerd's
CUT RATE DRUG STORES
109 SOUTH TRYON • 178 NORTH TRYON

Some of The Things We Lend Money on
Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Men's Clothing, Tools, Silverware, Shot Guns, Rifles, Pistols, Trunks, Adding Machines, Bags, Suit Cases, Musical Instruments, Kodaks, Typewriters.
All Business Strictly Confidential. When in Need of Money We Never Fail You.
See us for bargain in diamonds, watches, jewelry, clothing, etc.
RELIABLE LOAN CO.
201 EAST TRADE STREET

A Bird You Want To Know
Proudly we present the CS ROOSTER - the new emblem of Colonial Stores.
The CS Rooster is a new way of identifying Big Star and Little Star Stores, and above all — A MARK OF QUALITY FOODS.
Join the thousands shopping under the sign of the CS ROOSTER today — you'll be glad that you did!
COLONIAL STORES
INCORPORATED

Martin's Department Store
RELIABLE MERCHANDISE ALWAYS
AT LOW PRICES
Shop at Martin and Save
SHOES—CLOTHING—FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
AT CORNER TRADE AND COLLEGE

For Indigestion, Sour Stomach and Gas, Take
NA-CO TABLETS
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
SELWYN CUT RATE DRUG STORE
NEXT TO POST OFFICE