Oldest Bona Fide AFL Newspaper in North Carolina

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

Give Your Loyal Support to Your Labor Publications

VOL. XIX; NO. 29 | CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1949 | Subscription Price $2.00 Year

LOW INCOME FAMILIES SEEN "LEFT BEHIND"

AFL SELECTS EDWARDS FOR NEW RADIO SERIES

NOTED LIBERAL BEGINS FIVE NIGHTS A WEEK NEWSCAST JANUARY 2

WASHINGTON.—Frank Edwards, one of the outstanding liberals on the air, has been engaged as commentator for the American Federation of Labor's new, nation-wide radio program which will be broadcast five nights a week over the Mutual network beginning January 2.

Edwards brings to the microphone a versatile radio news background of more than 24 years and a vivid personality which won him top popularity ratings in his latest assignment at Indianapolis. Although sponsored by a business concern there, his consistent espousal of liberal causes and his aggressive campaign against the Taft-Hartley Act won his a wide following among Midwest workers.

His broadcasts for the AFL will originate from Washington and will be aired over a network of 147 stations from 10:00 to 10:15 P. M., EST. (A complete list of the stations on the network and the local time when this program will be heard will be published as soon as it can be compiled.)

Edwards was chosen to serve as AFL's news commentator after a series of auditions of many better known newscasters because of his effective radio style and his crusading spirit for progressive objectives. It is expected that he will soon become one of the most popular commentators on the air.

To accustom radio audiences to listening to Edwards at 10 p. m., EST, the Mutual network plans to start him on that spot on a sustaining basis beginning Dec. 5, Monday through Friday until the AFL program takes over on the same time beginning Jan. 2.

Edwards started his radio career as a special events broadcaster but his unceasing efforts to dig for the "story behind the story" prompted him to switch soon after to news reporting and then commentaries.

He has traveled far and wide tracking down news developments visiting such far-away places as Borneo, Alaska, Sumatra, Australia, South Africa, Norway and most of the South American nations in quest of radio headlines. An expert newsreel photographer, he has shot many films to illustrate his lectures which have won him popularity in the Midwest.

Fearless in his presentation of the truth and completely independent in his point of view, Edwards is expected to provide a refreshing contrast to the regular run of commentators, most of whom lean to the reactionary side of public issues. Certainly, he will offer a colorful and interesting new personality on the air.

AFL Commentator

FRANK EDWARDS
Who will be heard five nights a week over the Mutual Broadcasting System's nationwide hookup reporting the American Federation of Labor view of the news.

NEW JERSEY VOTERS RE-ELECT HERMANN

Newark, N. J.—Lewis M. Herrmann, publisher of the New Jersey Labor Herald, was returned to the New Jersey legislature by voters of Essex county with the highest vote of any candidate in the county.

Mr. Herrman, who is secretary-treasurer of the International Labor Press Association, won another term by a majority of 40,000 votes.

His victory was one of the most impressive among those scored by members of AFL unions in national, state and local elections. Mr. Herrmann is a member of the International Typographical Union.

AFL DRIVERS WIN 2 WAGE INCREASES

Chicago. — The Central States Drivers Council of the AFL Teamsters Union won two wage increases and an employer - financed welfare and health program in a new 26-month contract just signed with employers in 11 states.

The 40,000 AFL teamsters covered by the agreement received an increase of 8 cents an hour and one-fourth cent per mile effective November 16. In January, 1951, they will receive an additional 5 cents an hour and one-eighth cent per mile.

The 3,000 employers agreed to pay $1 per week for each employe into a union health and welfare program for the entire 26 months of the contract. The agreement covers drivers in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

AFL MEAT CUTTERS FOLLOW SWFT PACT

Chicago. — The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America of the AFL has instructed local unions that in negotiating packinghouse wage agreements they "should make an effort to include the benefits contained in our new 1949-1950 Swift master agreement."

The instructions were sent in a letter to all locals by Butcher Workmen President Earl W. Jimerson and Secretary - Treasurer Patrick E. Gorman.

The Swift contract continued in effect the company pension plan, in operation more than 30 years, which union officials called "far superior to most plans being negotiated at the present time."

Retroactive to September 12, 1949, the agreement provided bracket wage increases ranging from one-half to 15 cents an hour for all workers except those on common labor rate; three weeks' vacation after 15 years' service; 8 weeks' pay in case of pregnacy; severance pay; elimination of inequities and geographical differentials in Ocala, Fla.; Nashville, Tenn., Watertown, S. D.; Montgomery, Ala.

A. F. OF L. UNION WINS $9,000,000 GAIN UNDER BEST INSURANCE CONCRACT

Washington. — The AFL National Federation of Insurance Agents' Council won $7,000,000 more pay annually and $2,000,000 vacation allowances payable immediately for 16,000 agents of Prudential Insurance Company in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

Terms of the new contract were announced, by George L. Russ, president of the Insurance Agents' Council, at conclusion of day and night negotiating sessions of hard bargaining.

"This is the best contract ever negotiated to any union with any of the major life insurance companies," Mr. Russ said

The AFL union was certified as bargaining representative for the agents on August 5, 1949, after defeating the leftish-led United Office and Professional Workers of the CIO in a National Labor Relations Board election. The AFL won by a 2-to-1 vote.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, said that the contract is proof of superiority of AFL representation in the field and marks a renewal of intensive efforts to win bargaining rights for agents of other big insurance companies.

Mr. Russ said that the new contract calls for increases in compensation amounting to $7.24 weekly, which will cost the Prudential company $7,000,000 annually. The effective date of the raise was fixed as September 19, 1949, and the contract will run until December 1, 1951.

In addition the agents will receive $2,000,000 immediately in the form of a special vacation allowance for 1949 ranging from $125 to $138 each. The contract contains provisions for improved employe service benefits, grievance machinery, arbitration and dues checkoff also.

TO FORM ILLINOIS LLPE

Springfield, Ill. — Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, has accepted an invitation to address the organization meeting of the Illinois LLPE called for December 3 by the Illinois Federation of Labor.

AFL Members Win Largest Back Pay Claim

Los Angeles.—Demonstrating how AFL unions serve their members and the workers they represent, Jack M. Helsley and John T. Howard of Operating Engineers Local 12 receive checks totalling $3,265.25 from Samuel Kalish, California Deputy Labor Commissioner, for back pay illegally withheld under California law by their employer, Los Angeles Decomposed Granite Co. The claims were the largest ever settled by the Los Angeles office of the California State Labor Commission. M. L. (Lee) Miller, (left) business representative of Local 12, looks on as Mr. Kalish hands check to Mr. Howard. Between Mr. Kalish and Mr. Howard are Mr. Helsley and Mrs. Howard. After tax deductions, Mr. Howard's check amounted to $1,312.19 and Mr. Helsley's to $1,312.19. The cases were pressed to their successful conclusion by Business Representative Miller.

GARMENT WORKERS NAME ELDER DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL

Washington.—The Interpational Ladies Garment Workers Union of the AFL announced the selection of Arthur A. Elder, Midwest director of the Workers' Education Bureau of the AFL, as the director of the union's newly-established Officers' Training School—the first of its kind in the world.

Mr. Elder will assume his new duties on January 1, with the union turning over an entire floor of its headquarters building in New York for use of the training school. Classes will begin soon thereafter.

The school is open to members of the union 21 to 30 years old interested in becoming full-time officials and representatives. Tuition is free and every man and woman completing the course is guaranteed a full-time job.

The course of instruction calls for eight months of day school training in academic subjects such as economics, labor relations and law, union organization, history of labor, and four months of practical field work such as participation in collective bargaining negotiations and getting familiar with shop work and practices.

Initial enrollment is expected to run 40 students. These will be selected by the education committee of the union board of trustees.

The school is expected to cost $100,000 the first year.

WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?

Washington.—AFL officials call attention to the November 30 closing date for applications for scholarships to study labor and adult education at colleges in the United Kingdom for the 1950-51 academic year.

Members interested in the four scholarships available under the Fulbright program administered by the U. S. State Department should write to Institute of International Education, 2 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y., for eligibility requirements and application forms.

CONGRESS STUDY SAYS THIRD OF NATION EARNS ONLY $2,000 A YEAR

WASHINGTON.—The American Federation of Labor's battle to raise annual income of the low-paid groups was given a big boost by a special congresssional committee study.

A subcommittee of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report found that almost one-third of the nation receives an income of $2,000 a year or less. It said these families "have been left behind in the economic progress of America."

The conclusion supports the AFL position that the purchasing power of working people and low income groups must be steadily increased to realize the national objective of sustained high-level employment and prosperity.

The subcommittee said that the unfilled wants of American families now living on inadequate incomes "constitute a great underdeveloped economic frontier — a new and expansible market for the products of American industry."

The committee planned hearings in December to determine what congressional policies can be adopted to enable these families to become a greater market.

More than 8,000,000 incomes were under $1,000 a year and another 7,500,000 under $2,000 annually. The family groups include one-fifth of the nation's children.

HATTERS 100 YRS. IN NEWARK HAILED AS PROOF THAT THE UNION MARKET PAYS

Newark, N. J.—A union market is a flourishing market.

Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of the AFL, drew that lesson from the 100th anniversary celebration of Hatters Local Unions 13 and 14 in this city.

"For 100 years the hatters of Newark have been union" Mr. Zaritsky said in his greeting to the locals. "For 100 years Newark has been a union market and today Newark continues to flourish as a union market. But during all this period there have come and gone dozens of non-union hatting centers. Hardly a decade passed that some hat manufacturers did not decide to run away from the union; they believed they could do better if they did not have to deal with their workers collectively.

"The history of Locals 13 and 14 proves that they were wrong; proves that a sound union, intelligently led, is good for industry, and that while non-union shops perish, those manufacturers who deal with the union on fair and proper terms flourish."

The Newark locals were born in the days of turbulent labor history. Despite many serious setbacks, including the almost complete bankruptcy of its finances due to its support of the Danbury hatters in their famous struggle, the Newark locals are well established serving successfully the needs of the men and women in their own markekt.

And their trade is still a highly skilled technical craft requiring years of apprenticeship and training despite all of the many innovations and introduction of new machinery into the industry.

START LLPE CANVASS

Moline, Ill.—Cliff Carney, president of the Tri-City Federation of Labor, announced that appeals for $2 contributions to Labor's League for Political Education had gone out to 30,000 AFL members in the Quad Cities area.

VENEZUELA LABOR GRATEFUL TO AFL

Washington. — AFL President William Green has received a letter of appreciation from A. Malava Villalba, general secretary of the Confederation of Labor of Venezuela, for the resolution adopted by the AFL convention in St. Paul condemning the totalitarian governments of Venezuela and Peru.

"We consider this resolution of great importance, particularly in view of your request to the government of the United States that no economic help be given to the governments of these two countries because of their violation of civil liberties and trade union rights." Mr. Villalba told Mr. Green.

"Your condemnation of the dictatorial regimes has created a feeling of appreciation and gratitude among the Venezuelan workers. We are sure that in the future you will continue to give us all the necessary help until such time as the dictatorship in our country is obliterated and liberty and human rights are restored as the basic rights for all citizens.

The AFL convention said that "a serious task" still remains to defeat "the mounting wave of anti-labor and anti-democratic forces under the totalitarian banner of Peron in Argentina and the dictatorships in Peru and Venezuela."

"These reactionaries of the right have in recent months been guilty of ruthlessly violating the basic democratic liberties and the rights of labor.

"Our government, for the sake of its influence and prestige among the democratic forces of the world, would be well advised to show no friendship for or make any concessions to these bearers of totalitarian dogmas and despotism among our good neighbors to the South.

"Our government would likewise render distinguished service to our national security and to the cause of orderly social progress if it would actively discourage and categorically disapprove profiteering practices by greedy corporate American interests which enable sundry demagogues to promote suspicion of and enmity towards the entire American people and the democratic cause."

A. G. Spotlights Movie Workers... By Nancy Gilchrist

Many classes see films which help to explain further the subject which they are studying. Most people simply take these for granted, without realizing what a job it is for some one to give this privilege. A competent staff of boys under Miss Young's direction are largely responsible for the movies shown.

This group include: John Molter, Donnie Whitfield, Stanley Hoke, Sammy Kunkle, Warner Hall, Sidney Smith, Douglas Little, Richard Booth, Jamie Kratt, Bill Harding and Bill Heil.

Since this group, as was the one spotlighted in the last Broadcaster, was a comparatively large group, it was impossible to interview all of them, but the ones we have talked to have been very co-operative.

John Molter, first period worker, has perhaps one of the largest jobs. He helps Miss Young before school, gets there early, and may stop on his way to pick up a film. He then is responsible for putting it on the machine when he arrives. He is often called to slice films other periods beside first.

John says, "I like everything about running the movie projectors, and I prefer it to having a study hall. But Miss Young really deserves credit; she works hard." John got his training at Woodlawn School. The school got a new movie projector, and John was one of the boys chosen to learn. He learned how at the Public Library.

First row: Left to right, Donnie Whitfield, Bill Harding, Warner Hall, Douglas Little. Second row, Sidney Smith, Richard Booth, Bill Heil, Stanley Hoke. Third row, Jamie Kratt, and John Molten. Sammy Kunkle is absent.
(Photo by K. Rushin, Universal News Service)

Bill Heil and Bill Harding, sixth period workers, were jointly interviewed. Their job is to run the machine, see that the room is locked up and the lights out before they leave school, or pick up film for the next day. One thing they must be sure of is that the machine is unplugged and the amplifier off.

Bill Harking says, "I like rewinding best because there's more to it."

Respective teachers recommended these boys for their job. Bill Harding likes it especially because he likes "machinery, motors, electricity, and anything that works. Also it is very educational, because you see many good films you would not otherwise get to see."

Stanley Hoke is influenced by his father's work, (his Dad is a photographer) and that explains interest in running movie machines. He works for Miss Young "anytime she wants me," he says. Stanley does outside work in that field by running the movie projector for Saturday morning movies at Myers Park School. One thing he does is try to fix machines when they've broke down, so classes can go on. The thing Stanley likes best is seeing a lot of pictures.

Donnie Whitfield's opinion of his job is: "It's lots of fun." He reports to Miss Young before school and helps her then, as well as first period. He is interested in this type of work because he has a projector of his own.

Warner Hall likes it for "the fun of running it." He says the main job is to please all the teachers. "When something is broken, we have to know whether or not it's something we can fix; and if not, call someone to repair it." Warner got his training from Bill Kuykendall when he was in the seventh grade. Bill talked to Miss Young about getting Warner a place and then trained him at recess.

All in all, these boys and Miss Young have a hard job, but one that they do extremely well. We the students of A. G. express our appreciation. — AG Broadcaster, Nov. 23.