

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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OLDEST LABOR PUBLICATION IN THE TWO CAROLINAS

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

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NEW INTERNATIONAL AIMS AT FREEDOM

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, meeting in London, adopted a preamble to its constitution dedicating its efforts to mutual assistance to free workers everywhere in resisting totalitarian infiltration and destruction.

The founding meeting is scheduled to end on December 9. The draft constitution followed the idea that the new federation should "go after" Communist workers with an aggressive program to show them they can "have their bread and freedom, too."

It commits the new organization to a far-reaching program of freedom, security and social and economic advancement for workers the world over.

In broad outline, the preamble proclaimed the right of individual workers to social justice, to work, to free choice of employment, to security in job and of person and to join "trade unions which shall be free bargaining instruments and which derive their authority from their members."

It also proclaimed the right of workers "to democratic means of changing their government."

The second report of the credentials committee, which was accepted, showed that the conference now consisted of 261 representatives from 53 countries; 59 national trade union centers are taking part, as well as 28 other national union organizations. More than 45,000,000 workers are represented.

The report also disclosed that more than \$70,000 had been received in a preliminary payment of dues. The organization of Italy and India reported that internal economic conditions made full payment of dues impossible and that they were permitted to make only token payments.

Delegates from Venezuela and Peru, who said they were obliged to operate from outside their countries, also were allowed to make token payments "until their freedom to operate in their countries is restored."

RESERVATIONS OPEN FOR GOMPERS DINNER

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany is receiving reservations from international unions, state federations and central labor unions for the January 5 dinner opening the centennial celebration of the birth of Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor.

The dinner will be held at Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C., and President Truman is expected to attend. The cover is \$12.50.

Officials responsible for making reservations are urged to get them in as soon as possible. More than 600 reservations have already been received.

EDWARDS MAKES BOW WITH PROGRAM

Frank Edwards made his bow over Mutual Broadcasting System as the nation's newest liberal news commentator to be heard coast-to-coast.

His first program originated from Indianapolis on Dec. 5 on a sustaining basis. Mutual has arranged to have Edwards broadcast at 10 p. m., EST, Monday through Friday, as a sustaining feature through December to acquaint the listening public with his news presentation.

After Jan. 1 Edwards will be sponsored by the American Federation of Labor in 18 major cities and on 129 other stations across the country.

The midwesterner made an auspicious debut with a rapid fire, interesting delivery of the news highlights. He interspersed the straight reporting with comments pointing up and explaining the significance of such subjects as the shipping of atomic materials to Russia and the turbulence in the Far East.

Human interest items included news of Shirley Temple's divorce from John Agar and a bus crash in Boston where 20 persons sneaked into an overturned vehicle in an attempt to collect injury claims.

TEXAS FEDERATION WANTS TAX REVISION

The Texas State Federation of Labor wants the 1950 legislature to revise the state's tax structure.

"It is our opinion that the whole structure of taxation should be reorganized," Executive Secretary Paul C. Sparks said in a monthly report to affiliated organizations. "There are too many places where we are taxed several times on the same items, especially on the things we use in our everyday life, such as foods, automobiles and appliances."

Perhaps our North Carolina Federation could render its members a real service by looking into the Texas proposal in Tarheelia.

AFL Delegation Bound for London



New York.—Four members of AFL executive council pictured aboard Ile de France just before sailing for London conference to help establish new anti-communist world labor federation. Left to right, Vice-President David Dubinsky, president of International Ladies' Garment Workers; Secretary-Treasurer George Meany; President William Green, and Vice-President George M. Harrison, president Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks.

30-HOUR WEEK GOAL SEEN REALITY BY 1950

WASHINGTON.—The AFL objective of a 30-hour week was given a surprise endorsement by Sumner H. Slichter, big business economist on the Harvard University faculty.

Dr. Slichter cautiously forecast that the American economy would

be operating on a 30-hour week by 1950. Most AFL leaders believe it will come much more quickly than that.

Writing in the current issue of "The Atlantic Monthly," Dr. Slichter forecast these things by 1950:

A total population of 175,000,000, a work force of 72,500,000, number of hours worked by each person per year one-fourth less

than at present, a national output of goods and services (\$246,700,000,000 in 1948) of \$416,000,000,000 and more likely in excess of \$550,000,000,000.

Consumption up 50 to 100 per cent per capita, a country of two-car families, almost every home with a swimming pool, wider use of medical services of all kinds, growth of travel and the number of people completing high school and college, and a certainty that with the greater leisure for the people the arts will flourish in the United States as never before in the history of the world.

The first book printed on the North American continent was a hymnal, produced on a printing press brought across the Atlantic by the Puritans. The book was entitled "Bay Song Book."

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HAVE THEY CAUGHT THE SECRET OF AMERICA'S GREATNESS?

Yes, each one is right
about the U. S. Way...
but only partly right at best!

Did you ever stop to think that there never has been—and probably never will be—another country just like America, or as strong as America? And have you ever noticed that—even here—there is seldom agreement as to why America is strong? What is the answer?

The answer seems to be that *no one quality* ever completely describes or defines America. We're strong because we enjoy the most unique *combination* of qualities that keep a nation strong and productive of any country on earth.

But we have only just begun. We still have our faults which we'll have to correct. We still have

sharp ups and downs in prices and jobs. Yet our system has brought more benefits to more people than any other system ever devised.

We can overcome these faults, go on to greater heights—if we all pull together to produce more and more for every hour we work. Teamwork to produce better has usually brought us higher wages, shorter hours, better quality and more happiness for everyone.

The U. S. Way can mean a better way of life for all of us. Guard it—improve it. It's *your* future.

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