

Devoted to the interests of the A. F. of L. and the Working Man

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

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Dedicated to the Continued Growth of North Carolina

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## Meany Blasts T-H On New Broadcast

Washington. — AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said that the coal strike "proved that the Taft-Hartley Act is a completely ineffective instrument in national emergency disputes."

"When the real test came, the injunction procedures of T-H collapsed and the law was exposed as an empty, futile and useless public protector," Mr. Meany said.

The AFL official was interviewed by Philip Pearl, AFL publicity director, on the opening program of a new series of radio broadcasts over the American Broadcasting System. Entitled "As We See It," the programs will be conducted by Mr. Pearl from Washington at 10:45 p. m. each Tuesday. They will be heard over 130 ABC stations on time made available as a public service.

Appearing with Mr. Meany on the first program, Sen. Wayne Morse advocated repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and enactment of a statute fair to labor and management and one which really protects the public interest.

Senate Morse endorsed President Truman's proposal for creation of a national commission to study conditions in the coal industry in an effort to eliminate the causes of recurrent labor strife.

Mr. Pearl pointed out that the United Mine Workers are not now a part of the AFL.

"The unions which are affiliated with the AFL have made a remarkable record for sustained production during the past year with not a single major strike to mar their record," Mr. Pearl said.

Mr. Meany said that the main lesson of the coal strike is that "real collective bargaining is the only way to settle labor-management disputes."

"Once reliance upon the Taft-Hartley law was set aside and reliance placed on real, honest-to-goodness collective bargaining the whole dispute which threatened the economic welfare of the entire country was settled in no time," he said.

"The public should learn that there is no cure-all for strikes and disputes; that old-fashioned collective bargaining is the only way to find a fair solution, acceptable to both sides."

### \$17 to \$1

Washington. — Business spends \$17 to labor's \$1 to influence national legislation.

Tell that to the next guy who screams that labor "spends a fortune lobbying."

The figures were given by the top expert on lobbying, Rep. Frank Buchanan, who heads a special House committee investigating lobbying. He said his committee does not plan now to investigate labor or business lobbying.

When reporters kept pressing him on organized labor's activities in behalf of legislation and how much money is spent, Mr. Buchanan said:

"In 1949, business reported that it spent \$8,500,000 to influence legislation before Congress and labor spent \$500,000."

### Aids Victory



Chicago. — William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, threw resources of the big metropolitan organization behind organizing campaign of AFL Building Service Employees at Wieboldt Stores, Inc. to help achieve a victory that may be turning point in campaign to unionize big Chicago department stores.

## Building Service Wage Gains Noted

BY DAN SMITH  
Chicago Correspondent for  
AFL News Service

Chicago. — William L. McFetridge, president of the Building Service Employees International Union, was honored by nearly 2,000 persons at a dinner in Chicago's Palmer House, celebrating his election to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

At the speakers' table were the presidents of the city, state and American Federations of Labor; the mayor, the state's attorney, the officers of the county board and the park board, and a long list of leaders in political and business life.

Among the diners, and in some of the speakers' seats, were the janitors, the window washers and the elevator operators whom Mr. McFetridge led from poverty to dignity and security, and from whom he derives his strength.

"In nominating Bill McFetridge to the Executive Council, the American Federation of Labor has honored Chicago," Martin H. Kennelly, mayor of the city, told the gathering. He paid tribute to McFetridge for his work as a member of the board of commissioners of the Chicago Park District for the last 5 years.

"I've had a note on my desk to call up Bill McFetridge and ask him if he would accept reappointment for another 5 years," said Kennelly. "That's one memo I'll tear up in the morning. I know by his smiling countenance that he will accept, not because he is a Democrat, but because he is a real man."

Kennelly and other speakers referred jokingly to the fact that McFetridge supported Thomas E. Dewey for President in the last election. McFetridge always has used a mind of his own in political matters.

William Green, AFL president, cited two examples showing how the BSEIU has improved the workers' status. One was the history of a local union in St. Louis in which window washers' wages have risen from 45 cents an hour in 1937 to \$1.60. The other was the Chicago office building employees' local, in which the wages of janitresses since 1938 have been raised from 38 cents to \$1.08.

Green mentioned the activity of the Chicago flat janitors' local in providing scholarships to Northwestern University for children of the union's members. McFetridge himself, replying to the numerous congratulatory addresses, said it is to the credit of the whole labor movement that it has fought traditionally for the best possible education for the children of workers.

In addition to his numerous activities in labor's behalf, McFetridge also is vice president of the park board, a director of the Bank of Rogers Park, and director of the Hektoen Institute, a charitable agency.

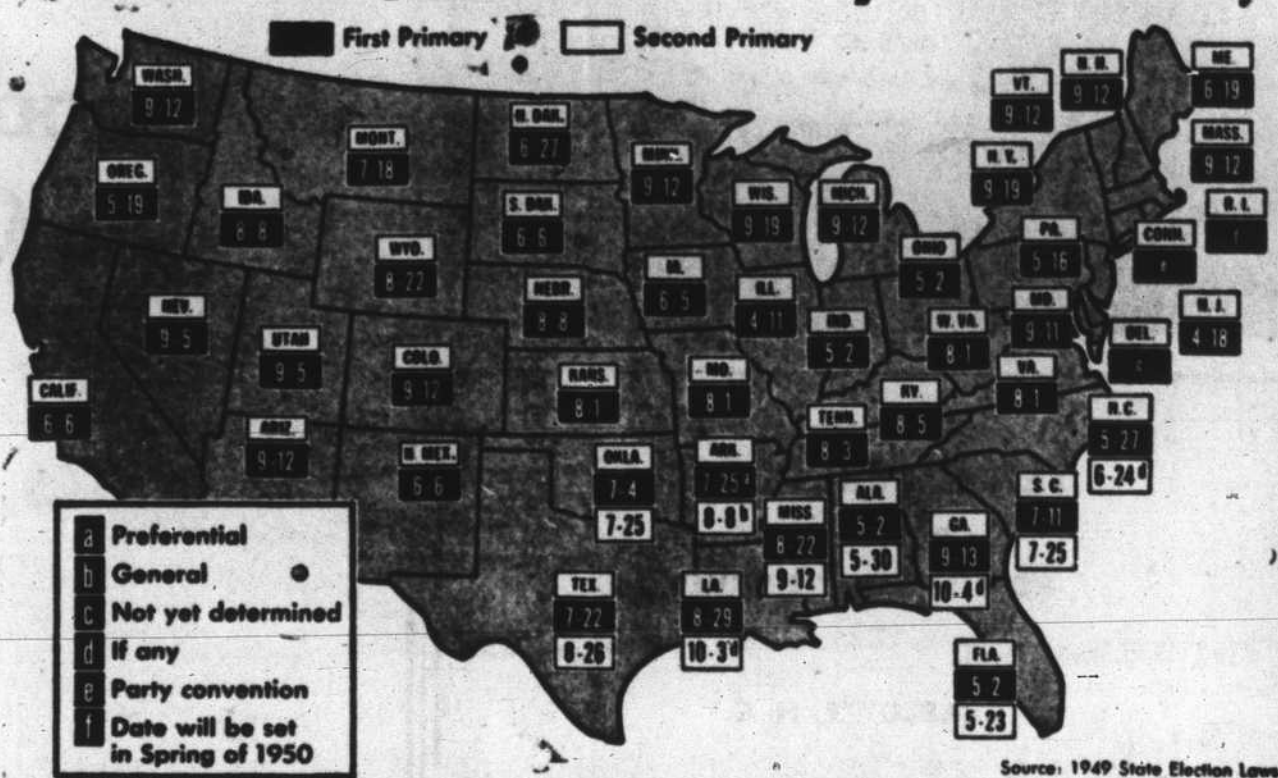
He introduced the diners to his wife and his two daughters, Barbara and Dorothy. Only member of his family missing was his mother, now in California.

"When I called her up, I had some trouble explaining to her that I had just been elected vice president of the American Federation of Labor," McFetridge related. "When I finally put it across, she said: 'Willie, I didn't know you were looking for another job.'"

Among those who spoke at the dinner were Dave Beck, vice president of the teamsters' international; John S. Boyle, state's attorney of Cook County; Richard J. Daley, Illinois state revenue director and personal representative of Governor Adlai Stevenson; James H. Gately, president, Chicago Park District; William A. Lee, president Chicago Federation of Labor, and Illinois State Federation of Labor.

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

## Dates of 1950 Primary Elections



### New AFL V-P



Washington. — William L. McFetridge, 56, president of the AFL Building Service Employees, is the newest member of the AFL executive council. He was elected 13th vice-president at the Miami council meeting.

### McFETRIDGE UNION WINS CRUCIAL TEST

Chicago. — The AFL Building Service Employees Union Local 372 won a crucial election in the Wieboldt Stores, Inc., on March 2, which may lead to a winning assault on the big State Street Stores, almost all unorganized and an antiunion blockade to higher wages for department store workers.

The union, whose international president is AFL Vice President William L. McFetridge, was assisted in its triumphant campaign by William A. Lee, president Chicago Federation of Labor; Vic Barnes, newscaster for the federation's radio station WCFL, and the Federation News. Local 372 President Harold Fitzgerald gave them credit for helping achieve the victory.

"This victory is the best gift the Chicago Federation of Labor can give to Bill McFetridge at the testimonial dinner," Mr. Lee said in commenting on the result. The McFetridge testimonial was held March 4.

Local 372 won bargaining rights for 3,500 workers in 6 Chicago and Evanston outlets of Wieboldt Stores by gaining 1,561 votes to 1,027 votes for the "independent" union.

Local 372 said that the department stores are the last strongholds of non-union, low wage working areas. It said that AFL unionism in the department store field will greatly strengthen labor's drive for reasonable standards of wages and working conditions.

### Come to the Show! In Philly, May 6

Washington. — Come to the show! The fifth AFL Union Industries Show.

"You'll get a kick out of it," the AFL Union Label Trades Department says.

The show opens May 6 and runs through May 13 in Philly's big Convention Hall—scene of great political conventions and mammoth exhibitions, displays and sports.

There will be 1-2 miles of brilliant displays of high-quality union-made products and exciting demonstrations of efficient union services.

Music, contests, entertainment, a display of U. S. Armed Forces equipment are other features.

### ATTEND THE 5TH AFL UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

You'll Get A Big Kick Out Of It! It is the only one of its kind and is scheduled May 6-13 at Convention Hall in Philadelphia. We want to make it the biggest and best ever held. In order that it will be the sensational success that other one has been, we appeal to all national and international unions of the American Federation of Labor to participate in this unique labor-management exhibition.

Good relations—co-operation between labor and management—is one of the worthy goals of our Union Industries Shows. Public good will of American consumers is another objective. We anticipate that half a million people will see this spectacular AFL-union event. Admission is free and valuable prizes will be given away.

Over one and a half running miles of brilliant displays of hi-quality, union-made products and exciting demonstrations of efficient union services—marvels of union worker's techniques—will be seen in the huge auditoriums of famous Convention Hall.

It will be a grand and glorious feeling for all Americans who take pride in our system of free enterprise to witness the human element—the expert craftsmanship—which is emphasized in addition to commercial values at our now-famous Show.

Visitors will also get a big kick out of the music, the contests, the entertainment and U.S. armed forces' displays in addition to the gorgeous exhibits during the 8-day, action-packed, round-up of union-made-in-America merchandise and union services.

Let's prove to the world that they are tops! For information about the great Show all America is talking about, write to: Matthew Woll, Director, Union Industries Show, American Federation of Labor Building, Washington 1. D. C.

## Frank Graham's Record Among Nation's Highest



FRANK PORTER GRAHAM  
United States Senator from  
North Carolina

Charlotte - reared Frank Porter Graham, U. S. Senator from North Carolina, who is seeking re-election to succeed himself against two other opponents, has an impressive record in the U. S. Senate considering the brief period he has been there and also his record as a citizen of our commonwealth is perhaps unequaled by any other native son.

Born Fayetteville, N. C., October 14, 1886, son of Alexander and Katherine (Sloan) Graham. His father, a native of Fayetteville, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, is called father of the graded school system in North Carolina, was founder of the public schools of Fayetteville, and head of the schools at Charlotte from 1888 to 1913.

### Unions Help Hold Off Business Drop

Washington. — The high-wage policy of American labor helped check a business recession in the United States last year, according to an article in the current issue of The American Federationist.

The article was written by George T. Brown, research director of the Plumbers and Fitters Union. It was based on President Truman's recent economic report to Congress.

The presidential report showed, according to Mr. Brown, that a postwar recession in the United States was halted in mid-1949. Toward the end of the year, industrial production, construction, employment and sales began to inch slowly upward. Specifically, wages were kept on a relatively even keel.

Mr. Brown said this report tells a "dramatic story, a story in which organized labor played a major role . . . This quick end of what could have become a full-sized depression occurred principally because the historical rush to wage-cutting did not take place."

"Organized labor," he said, "was the bulwark behind which the wage-earners of the nation defeated their standard of living. As a consequence of this show of strength, the vast number of the employed wage-earners continued to buy."

Mr. Brown said not only America, but most of Europe, will benefit from the fact that American purchasing power cushioned a possible depression.

"Had there not been solid resistance to wage cuts," he warned, "the pattern of life not only in America, but in the rest of the world would now be on its way to a debacle that would be more pleasing to Moscow than to any capital in the free world."

Mr. Brown cautioned labor that their job is not finished; that "the future well-being of organized workers — and therefore of all American wage-earners — lies in more efficient work and better collective bargaining."

He pointed out that increased efficiency must result in "wage increases and therefore increased purchasing power," adding: "To insure that increased productivity will be passed on to wage-earners in significant amounts, efficient and intelligent collective bargaining is necessary."

### BAN STANDS

Washington. — The Supreme Court refused for a second time to interfere with a court ruling that hiring halls for seamen as now conducted were illegal under the Taft-Hartley law.

Seamen's unions have indicated that they will defy any attempt to abolish the hiring hall procedure for employing ship crews. The AFL is working for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and its prohibitions on hiring halls, closed and union shops.

### TAKES NEW OFFICES

San Francisco. — The California State Federation of Labor and the California Labor eLague for Political Education opened new offices at 810 David Hewes Building, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3, California.

The son graduated from the Charlotte High School, and from the University of North Carolina (A. B. 1909). He spent an additional year in the Law School of the University of North Carolina and received his license to practice from the State Supreme Court in 1910. He taught in the Raleigh High School for two years, then returned to the University as Secretary of its Y. M. C. A. where in 1914 he was appointed instructor in history. In 1916 he took his master's degree at Columbia University.

When the United States entered the World War, Dr. Graham enlisted as a private in the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of first lieutenant before he was mustered out in July, 1919.

He returned to the University of North Carolina as Assistant Professor of History and for one year held the position of Dean of Students. In 1921 he was made Associate Professor and the following year was spent in graduate study at the University of Chicago, where he won the two-year Amherst Memorial Fellowship. After a year in Washington, D. C., studying at Brookings Institute and the Library of Congress, he went abroad to pursue research at the British Museum and the London School of Economics and to attend sessions for the League of Nations in Geneva. He returned to North Carolina in 1925, and two years later became a full professor. In June, 1930, he was elected as the eleventh President of the University of North Carolina.

The following colleges and universities have conferred honorary degrees upon Senator Graham: Columbia University ..... 1931 Catawba College ..... 1931 Davidson College ..... 1931 Birmingham-Southern ..... 1931 Duke University ..... 1931 William and Mary ..... 1938 Wake Forest College ..... 1940 Temple University ..... 1946 Amherst College ..... 1946 Harvard University ..... 1946 Princeton University ..... 1946 University of Louisville ..... 1948 Dartmouth College ..... 1948

He was married July 21, 1932, to Marian Drane, daughter of the Reverend Robert Brent Drane of Edenton, North Carolina.

Among his activities have been the following:

Vice-Chairman of the Consumers Board of the National Recovery Administration and in the fall of 1934 was appointed Chairman of the National Advisory Council to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Security.

Twice President of the North Carolina Conference of Social Service which prepared and sponsored the first workman's compensation act in North Carolina, still considered the best in the Southern States.

Founded the Citizens Library Movement, the first in the United States. (Continued On Page 4)