

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XX; NO. 18

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1950

Subscription Price, \$2.00 Per Year

## CAPITAL REPORTER Scott Summers

Raleigh.—Some folks have expressed doubt that Kerr Scott will back Willis Smith in the coming senatorial campaign, despite the Governor's repeated pledge to take the stump for his party's candidate.

The Governor is a Democrat first, and despite his opposition to Willis Smith in the two primaries will take the stump for Smith if party leaders want him to.

As a matter of fact, it has already been planned for Smith's Alamance county campaign—is not the entire campaign—to be kicked off with a big Alamance Young Democrats rally for Smith at the Governor's own Haw River farm home.

Tar Heel boarders can be proud of themselves. They sent sales tax receipts up about \$400,000 more than was expected last month. Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw reported a gain of more than \$850,000 above the same month a year ago. Since this was more than \$400,000 above the average gained each month this year, Shaw could only attribute it to "hysterical war buying and hoarding."

If the North Carolinians fighting in Korea had acted with the same patriotism, the Korean war would have been over two months ago—with us pushed off the mean little peninsula.

Reported irregularities—particularly misuse of public property—are being investigated in the State Forestry Division's First District.

The First District includes the seaboard counties, where forest fires are a serious problem each year.

The reported investigation apparently isn't worrying First Division personnel. Just a few nights ago, the Forestry boys of the First pitched themselves quite a party over near Little Washington.

Along in the shank of the evening, the boys became quite gay. The gayer they got, the more courage they found, and before long they lifted their voices in song—like a bunch of hounds baying at the moon.

And what do you think the tune was they were singing? A little ditty entitled:

"Whos Afraid of Big Bad Kerr Scott!"

You can forget that dry dock at Wilmington. Blame it on a lot of things: lackadaisical attitude of New Hanover county, which always has its hand out but doesn't seem to want to help itself; fumbling by the State Ports Authority; and the Navy's refusal to co-operate with a re-

tired army colonel (Col. George Gillette), despite all that talk about unification.

A \$15,000 outlay would have brought the drydock to Wilmington.

The Navy wasn't too hot about the idea of putting the drydock in Wilmington to start off. Shipbuilders were opposed, too. But the Governor pushed the idea, and after personal insistence of Senator Frank Graham, President Truman intervened and the dock was assured if the \$15,000 could be raised. The State did not want to enter private business, so rightly felt it could not put up the money. Despite their alleged desire to expand, folks in New Hanover looked the other way.

So Wilmington can be assured of remaining a second rate port, because ship owners are not going to send their ships 36 miles inland unless there are repair facilities available.

Time-payment cattle are slated for North Carolina's future. A group of New York money men are interested in starting up either a bank or finance company to loan money to farmers to buy cattle.

It'll work just like buying a car or a refrigerator. Pay so much down and so much a month or week until the loan is paid, with the cattle as security. Some loans will be made without even a down payment, it is understood, if the plan goes into effect.

The New Yorkers are enthusiastic about North Carolina's possibilities as a cattle country, both beef and dairy. And any time you don't think there's money in cattle raising, look at all those Texas millionaires. The experts say North Carolina is better suited for cattle raising than the Lone Star state, and that cattle can be raised cheaper here.

The Governor at a reas conference took a swipe at North Carolina bankers for "not having enough vision" to finance cattle buying. The banks were the same way about financing cars some years back, he said, so the finance companies came in and "made a killing."

Banking Commissioner Gurney P. Hood said that only a few Tar Heel banks now make loans on cattle.

Assistant Budget Director Dave Coltrane is hunting a farm management specialist to take over supervision of all state-owned farms. The hunt is on because Coltrane found recently that some of the State's farms are losing money. In one case, it was discovered that a farm had twice as many registered cattle out to graze as the pasture



would stand. In times like these, even a state-owned farm ought to at least break even, Coltrane believes.

With its decision to allow Tidewater Power and Light company a \$200,000 a year rate increase, the Utilities Commission by a 3-2 vote has put its approval on poor management of the company.

The raise is being paid by home and store consumers, while industrial users will get a slight cut.

The amazing thing about the whole action is that nowhere in the many-paged report of its decision is any reason given for the raise except "to allow Tidewater to sell some \$2,000,000 in new stock."

This two million bucks is needed, it was said, to "expand service" and to make repairs—a lot of which, the report said, have been needed since the war when materials were unavailable.

No one would quarrel with an expansion of service by Tidewater, but it is peculiar that it is one of the few—if not the only—companies in the country that did not build up a reserve during the war to make post-war repairs. Other companies, unable to get materials during the war, put aside the money they would have spent if they could and saved it for work after the war ended.

Despite poverty pleas, Tidewater has been able to pay an average dividend of one dollar a share for at least the last two years.

The Commission's refusal last week to reopen the case, means that the poor consumer will have to go to court if he wants to fight the rate raise further. And the Utilities Commission is supposed to protect the public!

If the Utilities Commission wants to do something, it could either force Tidewater to give its consumers decent service at a decent price or make them sell to someone who can. Since the company buys 85 per cent of its power from Carolina Power and Light Company then resells it at a profit, and since CP&L's President Louis Sutton, says his company has plenty of power, it looks as though that would be the logical company to serve the Tidewater area, anyhow.

Tidewater's poverty pleas brought a laugh in front of the Sir Walter Hotel here last week. Two top Tidewater officials stepped out of the hotel, into a plush, block-long Cadillac—complete with liveried chauffeur—for the ride home to Wilmington.

Incidentally, Tidewater's president is reported to get a salary of more than \$25,000 a year plus a "very generous" expense account. The expense account plus salary, the report said, runs more than the combined salaries and expense accounts of all five of the Utilities Commissioners. Not bad for "pore folks."

And the power argument spotlighted last week bids likely to become the biggest political issue of the state. The Governor says

the state's power potential is great but underdeveloped. He claims industry is passing the State by because of lack of power and that hydro-electric flood control, water conservation dams should be built with federal funds.

CP&L's Louis Sutton says tain't so; that private power companies are taking care of all needs adequately; that steam power is better than hydro-electric; that industry is not passing the state by; and that it's all just another attempt by the government to take over private power companies.

But Sutton talks only about power. He doesn't say anything about flood control, other than it should be done some other way, and he doesn't even mention water conservation.

Up to now no one has come up with any flood control, water conservation plan that doesn't entail government spending. If at the same time power output can be boosted, it would be foolish not to do so.

Since North Carolina is one of the top states in payment of federal taxes—and on the short end of the deal as far as federal money spent in the State—the Governor and some others think it's time some of those federal projects came this way.

Anyway, it'll be a knockdown, dragout fight.

This week's report from Washington, via the Tar Heel Capitol: Direct controls affecting the farmer—such items as farm implements, fertilizer, etc.—are not in sight. They won't be clamped on unless the war spreads beyond Korea.

Some 850,000 farm workers will be eligible for social security—old age benefits come January 1. The law leaves out farm owners or operators, tenants, sharecroppers, migratory workers and members of the farm family under 21. A farm worker must establish eligibility by working full time for one employer for a calendar year, and must put in two months work out of every three to stay eligible. Uncle Sam will collect a 3 per cent tax on all cash wages—paid equally by worker and his employer. Benefit payments run from \$25 a month to a top of \$80 a month.

Orchid of the week goes to Captain L. R. Fisher, director of the Highway Safety Division. (Continued on Page 4)

Ballots Defend Your FREEDOM  
Are You REGISTERED?

## French Told Their Wage Price Structure Out of Line

### John P. Frey, A Pioneer In A. F. of L. Movement

(John P. Frey will hold the new title of president emeritus of the AFL Metal Trades department when the annual convention begins September 14, 1950, at Houston, Texas. This is the story):

Washington.—On Thursday, May 4, the resignation of John P. Frey as president of the Metal Trades department was received and accepted by the Executive Council of the department, at its meeting in Philadelphia.

This resignation was received with great reluctance by the council, but it did not come as any surprise. Mr. Frey had intimated on various occasions his desire to retire from active service in the trade union movement, to be able to devote more time to special aspects of it.

John Frey was born on Feb. 24, 1871, in Mankato, Minn.—Reversing the general trend of "Go West Young Man," John went east and on May 10 of 1896 was initiated into the Molders Union No. 5, Worcester, Mass.

Those were the days when trade unionism, outside of those who were a part of it was not too popular.

On July 1, 1896, John became president of the local union of Molders, and a delegate to the Worcester Central Labor Council. His force was soon recognized in the Central Labor Union. In 1899 he became the delegate from his local union to the convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, and at that time was elected as one of the vice presidents.

In 1903, John was elected as editor of The Molders' Journal. It was during this editorship that The Molders' Journal became recognized by the entire trade union movement, by economists, and by students of history as being a moving force in the progress of the trade union movement and as making a great contribution to the understanding of the philosophy of the trade union movement.

In addition to the duties as editor, John remained as an organizer, and was in charge of strikes supported by the International Union. He was also one of the negotiators with the Foundrymen. Again during this period, the evils of the injunction, the yellow-dog contract and their effect upon union organization and the rights of the human being became increasingly apparent.

In 1924 John was placed in complete charge of all organizing activities for the International Union.

That John Frey's career and experiences in the trade union movement was also an author, having written several books which received wide acclaim.

His first book was titled, "An American Molder in Europe," based upon his own experiences gained as a result of a visit to many European countries. His second, published in 1922, was entitled, "The Labor Injunction." This book played a great part in making the trade unions of America aware of the evils of the injunction and aided in the trade union effort to have the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-injunction Bill adopted by the national Congress.

It might be added that, for three years, John was a member of the AFL committee of three which worked with the subcommittee of the U. S. Senate committee on judiciary, which drafted the Anti-injunction Bill. In 1944, John wrote a book entitled, "Craft Unions of Ancient and Modern Times," a history of the trade union movement and the efforts of men to organize to protect their own interests almost since the advent of civilization.

John Frey served as a member of the Hoxie committee in 1913 and 1914, which made a study of scientific management and labor. This study exposed

the fallacy and menace of scientific management then becoming widespread in industry, and further served as material for the study of the Industrial Relations commission.

The Government Defense agencies had indicated intentions to institute scientific management systems in their facilities. It was as a result of the Hoxie committee's study and findings and the resultant testimony before Senate and House Committees on Labor that prohibitive clauses to the use of scientific management proposals in defense facilities were adopted. These studies clearly demonstrated the menace of the speed-up, stretch-out and other engineering proposals, which made an automaton of the individual, rather than a human being.

John was chosen on several occasions to represent either the American Federation of Labor, or the United States on missions to Europe. He served as a fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress in 1909. He was secretary of the first labor mission, appointed by President Wilson from the United States to Allied countries in 1918. He accompanied President Gompers to Europe in 1918 in support of the over-all war effort. He attended the 1921 and 1924 conventions of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, representing the AFL. In 1927 he was a labor advisor to the American Delegation of the International Labor Economic Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

John became recognized as a national figure in the trade union movement with his election to the American Federation of Labor convention in 1901; a delegateship to which he was regularly elected, with two years' exception, through 1949. He served as secretary of the Committee on Resolutions of the AFL convention, continually from 1908 through 1924. In 1934 he again became secretary of the Committee on Resolutions and served through 1949. Few men in the union movement have made their influence felt in AFL conventions as much as has John Frey. He was a close personal friend and confidante of President Sam Gompers for a great many years.

The city of Norwood, Ohio, where he made his home after leaving Worcester to become part of the international family of the Molders, honored him by making him president of the Board of Education, in which capacity he served from 1917 through 1921.

Also, during this period of residence in the State of Ohio, he became president of the Ohio State Federation of Labor from 1924 through 1928. It was during his term of office as president of the State Federation of Labor that the federation sponsored the Anti-Yellow Dog Contract bill and served as a pattern for other State Federations of Labor to follow. The Ohio law was incorporated in its entirety, in the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-injunction bill.

He was commissioned a lieutenant.

(Continued On Page 4)

WASHINGTON.—Marshall Plan Labor Adviser Bert M. Jewell told a visiting team of French trade unionists here this week that according to French figures the wage-price structure in their country is "out of line" and asked what they planned to do about it.

Simultaneously, he made it plain that the Economic Co-operation Administration and American labor will support a program to lower prices and improve purchasing power.

"Wages have fallen way behind in the foot-race with prices," Jewell declared, at a meeting with 17 leaders of major French non-communist trade unions now studying U. S. labor education methods. "When production has been increased as much as it has in France, there is some need for trying to find a way to distribute more widely results of all this—so that workers will have greater purchasing power . . ."

He continued: "I want to make it very clear that so far as ECA is concerned, we are looking for this team to help to show how the results of increased productivity should be distributed fairly among the people and the workers, possibly through reduction of prices or increase in wages."

At the same time the former key American Federation of Labor official emphasized that the "time is now here when every effort should be bent" to build strong free trade unions in France.

"We want to do everything we can to help you build your free trade unions and to help overcome the influence of Communist unions, which is detrimental to your country," he asserted. "But," he added, "we can't come over and do the organizing for you—that's your job."

He said American trade unionists would be happy to visit France and assist in any way possible, provided they're needed, wanted and invited.

Jewell also suggested that French labor leaders establish a free trade union advisory committee to consult with the ECA Mission in France on the distribution of Marshall Plan funds. "We want your views on what we're doing and why," he said.

Miss Denyse Wurmser, 45, a teacher and member of the Force Ouvriere, speaking of the recent Government action fixing a minimum wage, said: "The Government has tried to please both labor and management—but has tended to lean toward the employer."

She suggested that as many U. S. labor teams as "possible" be sent to France, particularly from the rank and file.

Pierre Chevaller, member of the Executive Committee of the Railroad Federation, CGC, in charge of education programs, said he felt teams should be very carefully "planned" before being sent. He was critical of the French tax system and held, too, that no increase in productivity will be possible "without the intellectual participation of management."

Roger Hagnauer, Assistant to Secretary, National Federation of Education, FO, said that "by all possible means," contact between American and French workers should be increased.

Following the meeting, in the board room at ECA headquarters, the team was received by George Delaney, AFL International Representative. Today they visited the national offices of the CIO and the International Association of Machinists (Ind.).

Later, Jewell welcomed a team of Austrians, composed of three members of the Austrian Parliament and three key Austrian trade union officials.

Roger Ernst, who is in charge of the ECA's Austrian desk here, asserted that the record of increase in production in Austria has been "large and astounding." However, there is still "a great deal of room for improvement," he said.

## RULES

FOR SAFE WALKING . . .

1. Carry or wear something white at night to help drivers see you.
2. Cross only at crosswalks. Keep to the right in the crosswalk.
3. Before crossing—look both ways. Be sure the way is clear before you cross.
4. Cross only on proper signal.
5. Watch for turning cars.
6. Never go into the roadway from between parked cars.
7. Where there is no sidewalk, and it is necessary to walk in roadway, walk on left side, facing traffic.

AAA

Traffic Engineering and Safety Dept.  
AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

DON'T  
ALBI  
LATER  
REGISTER  
NOW