

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

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## VOTE FOR SCHOOL BONDS SEPTEMBER 30



The 1950 poster for use in connection with the drive to employ more handicapped workers has been released by Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire (MC), USN, Ret., Chairman of The President's Committee on National Employment of the Physically Handicapped. Prominently displayed on Post Office trucks and in store windows across the country, the poster emphasizes "ABILITY" as being all-important in considering workers for any given job. New York artist E. F. Witzmack drew this year's poster for "NEPH" Week—October 1-7.

### FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WEEK

Beginning Monday and lasting for one week the Nation's business firms will observe National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. There are an estimated one million unemployed physically handicapped persons, veterans and non-veterans, who can be added to the national work-force, according to statistics compiled by the President's committee, working in conjunction with the U. S. Department of Labor.

In August 1945, the 79th Congress authorized National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week and designated the first week in October for its annual observance. Since then, the idea of NEPH Week has developed into a year-round program. Today many private organizations and thousands of public-spirited organizations and thousands of public-spirited individuals are co-operating with local, State, and Federal government agencies in organized and continuous effort for the rehabilitation, and employment of the physically handicapped. Much has been accomplished. Much remains to be done. Looming ahead for 1950-51 are:

- Objectives
- 1. More organizations partic-



**VOTE**  
for the  
friends of  
**LABOR**  
November 7

### Charlotte Banker Heads Dimes Drive

Frank Phillips of Charlotte has accepted the state chairmanship of North Carolina's 1951 March of Dimes campaign, it was announced from State headquarters in Chapel Hill last week.

His appointment was made by Basil O'Connor of New York, president of the National Foundation. Mr. Phillips succeeds Dr. Ralph W. McDonald, retiring chairman of the annual fund-raising drive.

Mrs. Phillips Russell will continue as director of organization with State headquarters at Chapel Hill.

In accepting the appointment, Chairman Phillips said:

"Since 1934, the year of the first President's Birthday ball, the people of North Carolina have generously supported the fight against infantile paralysis, contributing a net total of \$4,626,839. Of this amount, \$2,202,790 was forwarded to the national headquarters. However, since the outbreak of the 1944 polio epidemic in our State, the national headquarters of the foundation has advanced to our county chapters the sum of \$3,394,237. In other words, in spite of the splendid fund-raising drives in the State, we still have received \$1,191,447 more from the national headquarters than they have received from North Carolina.

"North Carolina has not yet been able to contribute one dime to the foundation's great program of research into the causes and prevention of infantile paralysis. And it is to this research program we all must look for the final prevention of poliomyelitis."

Mr. Phillips is vice president of the Commercial National Bank of Charlotte.

### TAFT AND THE DRAFT

Everybody knows Sen. Robert A. Taft (R, Ohio) voted against the draft on August 7, 1941—only four months before Pearl Harbor.

But how many people know that in June, 1948—just two years before the Korean war—Taft voted to reduce the period of draft service from two years to 18 months? Fortunately, the Senate voted against Taft and for a strong selective service, 66-22—or by 3 to 1.

Yet Taft has the nerve to say he has always supported a strong Army, Navy and Air Force.

### SOCIALISM?

Note to the voters of Harry Byrd's Virginia:

Your state received more than \$18.3 million in aid from the Federal Government during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949. Is that socialism?



Mona Freeman, Paramount's picture star, was selected as "Union Label Queen" of Southern California. The announcement was made by Raymond F. Leheney, Secy.-Treas., AFL Union Label Trades Dept., while attending the inaugural ceremonies for Union Label Week arranged by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers of Los Angeles.

- 2. Better public understanding of the problem and the facts.
- 3. Increased employment of handicapped workers.
- 4. Improved methods of matching the worker and the job.
- 5. Encouragement of retention and advancement of the handicapped.
- 6. Better understanding by the handicapped of services available.

### Red Feather Quiz

**QUESTION:**  
(Third in a series of questions answered by local labor leaders which is a feature designed to enlighten the Mecklenburg Community concerning the Community Chest and its Red Feather Services.)

**QUESTION:**  
Is there a local service which prevents and treats mental and emotional illness?

**ANSWER:**  
A. L. Gunter, president of International Brotherhood of Truckdrivers Local No. 71, stated, "Yes. Services of the Mental Hygiene Clinic are aimed to prevent the development of mental and emotional illness through education and early treatment, while those already ill are treated by modern methods or helped to get institutional care when it is necessary. The care of mental patients is a costly burden to the community, and the intense suffering, both for parents and families, can never be evaluated in terms of money. This Red Feather Service appeals for public support through your Community Chest."

### Boost Union Label Bread



Left to right—Raymond F. Leheney, Mona Freeman, Paramount star, and Dan Conway, vice president, Bakers' International Union.

Raymond F. Leheney, secretary-treasurer, AFL Union Label Trades Department, presents Mona Freeman, Paramount star, with the first Union Label bread to be sold in Southern California. Proudly looking on is Dan Conway, vice president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union, who inaugurated the Union Label Campaign during Union Label Week.

### Tobin Calls On U. S. Labor To Guard Against Spiraling Prices

Huston, Tex.—Inflation is the greatest danger facing American labor at home today, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin told the 69th convention of the American Federation of Labor. He urged self-restraint against an upward general wage movement to avoid the possibility of "drastic over-all price and wage controls."

Tobin told the delegates that the Government intends to "keep the lid on the cost of living" but that it is not yet clear "how far we will have to go in pulling in our belts."

"If wage increases which are negotiated in the period ahead can be confined to those which are necessary to correct for the rise in the cost of living and if further increases are avoided, we have some chance to minimize controls," the Secretary said.

Tobin warned the delegates: "The problems which you will have to face, as the leaders of American labor during this period, are not easy. The degree of self-restraint which the President has asked you to exercise is not going to be popular; it is (Continued On Page 4)

### G. E. LEIGHTY



G. E. Leighty, President of the AFL Order of Railroad Telegraphers and Chairman of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, is in charge of rail labor bills before Congress and cooperating generally on the labor union legislative front.

### Election Year 'Statesmanship'



In the September 30 election, Charlotte and Mecklenburg voters are asked to approve the investment of \$5,325,000 in city and county school improvements.

The money will be borrowed by the county government through the issuance of long-term bonds and repaid in annual installments.

Division of the bond fund on a basis approved by the city and county school boards will provide \$3,550,000 for school improvements within the city system, and \$1,775,000 in the rural districts.

Neither board maintains that these amounts are sufficient to finance a program covering all local school needs.

However, the proposed investment represents the maximum amount which may be borrowed at this time under debt limit restrictions as interpreted by the county attorneys.

Hence the program as outlined is an emergency program, to meet critical school needs which must be relieved now.

With its \$3,500,000 share of the bond fund, the Charlotte school commission hopes to build eight new elementary schools, two junior high schools, one senior high school, and to enlarge two existing units.

In the northeast section, elementary schools will be built for white pupils in the Merry Oaks neighborhood and in the Charlotte Country club area, and a junior high school erected in Chantilly. The Billingsville school for Negro pupils will be enlarged.

In the northwest section funds will be invested in a new elementary school for white pupils to relieve Parks-Hutchison; and in a senior high school for Negroes in the Double Oaks neighborhood.

Improvements in Southeast Charlotte will include a new elementary school, white, in Sedgwick; and enlargements of the Myers Park High school.

In the southwest, elementary schools for white children are scheduled in the Camp Greene area, in Hoskins, and in the vicinity of Revolution park. Two Negro schools, one an elementary unit and the other a junior high school will be built in the York road area.

County school officials intend to use their \$1,775,000 bond share in supplying the most pressing needs for new school buildings, and for the remodeling and enlargement of existing buildings, throughout the rural system.

Improvement of white schools is planned in the districts at Clear Creek, Bain, Matthews, Newell, Oakhurst, Hickory Grove, Sharon, Woodlawn, Pineville, East High School, Berryhill, Morris Field, Steele Creek, Thomasboro, Hoskins, Paw Creek, Kendall, Oakdale, West High School, Cornelius, Derita, Nevin, Huntersville, Long Creek, Davidson, and North High School.

Negro school improvements will be sponsored in Henderson Grove, Matthews, North Charlotte, Clear Creek, Pineville, Big Pineville, Plato Price, McClintock, Paw Creek, Hoskins, Woodland, Caldwell, Lytle's Road, Smithville, Rockwell, Huntersville, Long Creek, and Davidson.

Here are some of the questions which may be raised concerning the proposed bond issue:

How serious is the need for these improvements?

It is critical. An enrollment increase of 3,630 pupils in Charlotte schools during the last five years, and an anticipated increase of 4,500 to 5,000 during the next five years, have combined to create a desperate situation and a frightening prospect.

Are the schools already overcrowded?

Yes. Existing classroom capacity in the city schools is 16,000 pupils. Yet, about 20,000 pupils are enrolled.

How is this overload accommodated?

By the use of library space, auditoriums, and storage rooms for class through double sessions in some instances; and through other makeshift arrangements.

How about the county schools? In the rural areas the overload

problem is less acute, or will be less acute when the current building program is completed. However, many of the present buildings are antiquated or in bad repair, entirely unsuited to a modern instructional program, and lack facilities which are essential to the proper education of today's children.

How much would it cost to supply all the needed expansions?

Estimates vary. On the basis of a detailed survey of the city school system, school planning specialists of the Engelhardt firm found present and developing needs for a \$14,883,000 program.

City school authorities figure that a bare minimum of \$9,000,000 must be invested in school expansions by 1955 to accommodate present and future enrollment. The county school studies are still short of the conclusion stage, but it is anticipated that several million dollars will be needed.

Will the bond issue now proposed relieve the present overload in city schools?

Not entirely. On the basis of \$1,000 a pupil for new space accommodations, city school officials would need at least \$4,000,000 to cover the accumulated need. They will get only \$3,550,000 of the proposed bonds. But the resulting program will ease the crisis until another bond issue can be authorized.

Why not ask a vote now on the full amount required?

County governing heads rule that \$5,325,000 is the maximum amount which can be borrowed for school purposes under the present debt limitation.

Does this mean that the county is in bad financial shape?

Not at all. The debt limitation is based on a percentage of total property worth as listed for tax purposes in 1950. It is common knowledge that the taxable evaluation of local properties is less than one-third of their actual value. This holds the debt ceiling to a low, unrealistic level. It is anticipated, however, that this situation will be eliminated at the conclusion of a county-wide, scientific reappraisal of properties now in progress. The new values will be reflected on the tax books after January 1, 1952.

Why not issue city government bonds for the school building program?

Under existing North Carolina laws, the financing of all school improvements in urban and rural areas is solely a responsibility of (Continued On Page 3)