

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XX; NO. 33

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1950

Subscription Price, \$2.00 Per Year

SOUTHERN LUMBER WORKERS' WAGES RISE

Single Federation For U. S. Labor Urged By Machinists' Union Chief

President Al Hayes of the IAM last week called on all American unions to unite their tremendous forces in a single labor body. "The time has come," he warned, "to practice the unity we preach to others."

Speaking before 1,000 trade union leaders, from every branch of organized labor, assembled for the Samuel Gompers memorial banquet at Chicago, Mr. Hayes declared, "The obstacles which stand in the way of over-all labor unity at the present time, as serious as they can be made to appear, are petty compared to the obstacles which our disunity creates in the path of all labor."

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, also participated in the Gompers memorial program, sponsored by Roosevelt College.

In his address, Mr. Hayes enumerated the price all labor is paying for disunity in its negotiations with management, in loss of progressive social legislation, and in the defense of democracy both in this country and in the world struggle against Russia.

Pointing to the situation created when two or three of more separate unions compete with each other in an organizing campaign, Mr. Hayes asked:

How can any union so conduct its campaign that it does not undermine the foundations of solidarity on which organized labor stands? How long does it take to heal the wounds of campaign competition bitterness? How long before the victorious union can claim a united group? And what about the effect of this division and bitterness at the negotiating table?

"Once upon a time considerable energy and money was spent by anti-union employers to shatter the allegiance of their employees to the principle of organization. They would attempt to divide and rule. Now-a-days we divide and shatter our own principles with no prompting from a hostile boss."

Asserting that labor has been on the defensive since the end of the last war, the IAM president pointed out that progressive New Deal legislation which so benefited all ordinary Americans is now being attacked by those who always opposed the advance of common people as anti-American. "On every front progressive ideas meet new and growing resistance," he declared.

As a consequence, Mr. Hayes said, labor has to expend all of its energy and much of its resources to hold its grounds or to make inch-length advances. He contrasted the present anti-labor political climate with the recent "pro-labor" climate which at its peak gave labor the most favorable position it had ever enjoyed in the United States.

"How much of our predicament is due to our own disunity can be measured by the strength we still maintain in our divided condition," he declared. "How much stronger we would be to deal with

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UNIONS URGED TO UTILIZE ALL PUBLIC RELATIONS FACILITIES

NEWARK, N. J. — Unions must educate the public to a better understanding of their problems.

Tools and techniques for accomplishing this purpose were studied at an all-day symposium conducted by the Institute of Management and Labor Relations of Rutgers University and the AFL Essex Trades Council.

Pointing up the need for local union action in this important public relations field, only one of the 75 delegates present said his union had a publicity chairman and two others reported their local published monthly bulletins.

A filmstrip, "Public Relations for Labor," was shown by Prof. Irvine L. H. Kerrison, who is in charge of the Rutgers labor program.

"Public relations means hard work," he said in giving a detailed explanation of what labor public relations is and how unions can do public relations which is mainly "getting along with people."

In the panel discussion "Working With Radio," led by Harry Stark, extension associate, Rutgers labor program; Lou Frankel, manager Station WFDR, New York, explained the steps in directing and writing a labor radio program.

Ben Levin, president Branch 540 Letter Carriers, and vice president New Jersey Labor Radio Council, told the delegates that "the time cost of radio is small if someone in your organization can produce the script." Irving R. Rosenhaus, president Station WAAT-WATV of Newark, said unions should use the smaller local radio stations to get their message across to the public and should use entertainment freely for such a program.

Three labor editors spoke at the conference luncheon which was in charge of John J. Vohden, president Essex Trades Council. They were Damon Stetson, Newark Evening News; Murray Kempton, New York Post-Home News, and Victor Reisel, nationally-known labor columnist for 154 American newspapers.

"Labor does a great job in community service," H. Bruce Palmer, vice chairman Newark Welfare Federation, stated in the discussion on "Putting Across Labor's Interest in General Community Service."

Richard P. Donovan, AFL labor representative on the Newark Welfare Federation, told of the AFL goals in the United States in civic affairs. He said community welfare work by unions should be a year-round program and that members should be edu-



cated for community work because "good human relations is needed by unions on a local level." Edward Slater, secretary-treasurer, Essex Trades Council directed this panel.

J. C. Rich, editor the Hat Worker, and Carl Fisher of Local 111, Chemical Workers, of Bound Brook, described the techniques for the publication of a local union newspaper.

"A country weekly is successful because it is interested in persons and local matters, a local union newspaper should have the same technique," Mr. Rich said.

In describing how he issues a mimeographed local union paper, Mr. Fisher said this paper's 1500 circulation is distributed through 60 shop stewards which means that the paper gets directly into the hands of the union members. He urged all the unions to issue such bulletins because of the benefits within the union and as an aid to better community service.

Lewis M. Herrman, editor New Jersey Labor Herald and state assemblyman, in the discussion on "Labor's Stake in Public Relations," urged the delegates to inaugurate a 5-point program:

1. Appoint someone to furnish information to the press regularly.
2. See that your publicity chairman or officers read local newspapers regularly and if a derogatory item appears have someone send the paper a letter to the editor stating the facts without venom.
3. Send items to the labor press as this is also read by management.
4. Tell your story through the utilization of the small local radio station.
5. Organize public forums and speaker's bureaus to get your story across to service clubs, church and other public groups.

IAM OFFICER GETS POST
Washington. — P. L. (Roy) Siemiller, Chicago, general vice president International Association of Machinists, was sworn in November 27 as director of manpower for the Defense Transportation Administration.

Wages

Do you remember the hue and cry that went up from some sections of business when Congress more than a year ago increased the minimum wage to 75 cents?

The complaint frequently heard then was that while some business firms could afford the increase, it would virtually drive traditionally low-wage industries out of business. Some of the loudest complaints came from the Southern saw-mill industry.

Well, the 75-cent minimum wage has been in effect nearly a year. What has happened?

This question has been answered by William R. McComb, Wage-Hour Administrator in the Department of Labor. McComb made a special study and he found the industry was able to pay the higher rate with scarcely any trouble at all. Here is what he says:

"Higher wage rates appear to have been absorbed through increased efficiency, increased mechanization, the large volume of business in the industry, and increased prices for the industry's product."

In fact, McComb found, the industry is now profiting as never before.

—The Machinist.

Truman OK's Child Program

President Truman urged the nation to "press right ahead" with ways to help children and young people to become mentally and morally stronger, and to make them better citizens. This is "more important now than ever," he said in a speech before the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, which was attended by upwards of 30 AFL officials from all over the country.

Mr. Truman said in part: "Our teachers—and all others who deal with our young people—should place uppermost the need for making our young people understand our free institutions and the values on which they rest. We must fight against the moral cynicism—the materialistic view of life—on which communism feeds."

"We must teach the objectives that lie behind our institutions, and the duty of all our citizens to make those institutions work more perfectly. Nothing is more important than this."

"And nothing this conference can do will have a greater effect on the world struggle against communism than spelling out the ways in which our young people can better understand our democratic institutions, and why we must fight, when necessary, to defend them."

"When the White House con-

ference was held in 1940, the nature of the defense problems which lay ahead was not very clear to those who participated. But in the years that followed, we found that the defense program created many problems of migration, divided families, working mothers, inadequate housing at defense centers and military camps, lack of community services and of facilities for education and child welfare.

"Today we know much more about these problems, and our recent experience in trying to solve them is fresh in our minds. I know that the work of this conference will give us some important guide lines as to how we can handle these matters best."

"Our defense effort is all-important, but we must do everything we can to see that it does

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Enactment of the new 75 cents per hour minimum wage legislation in January, 1950, resulted in an average wage increase of 11 cents per hour in the southern sawmilling industry structure, it was announced today by Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the South.

TYPOS WIN 2 OF 3 ARBITRATION CASES AGAINST N-SENTINEL

Knoxville Typographical Union No. 111 has been awarded two out of three decisions handed down in arbitration proceedings this week against The Knoxville News-Sentinel.

The two decisions awarded to the union concerned payment for vacation at premium rates over and above base rates. Arbitrator for all three cases was Dr. Frank B. Ward.

In commenting on the claim for vacation pay based on bonus rate for key personnel, Dr. Ward said:

"It is the assumption of the fifth member of the Joint Standing Committee that vacations with pay are intended either as rewards or as opportunities for revitalization or both; that they are not intended as penalties. There is nothing in Section 14 (a) that would suggest that 'vacations with pay' means vacations with less than full pay. Depriving the vacationing employee of any part of what he would customarily receive during a similar period would mean that he would not be receiving full vacation pay."

The second decision awarded to the union against the News-Sentinel concerned claim for vacation pay based on a premium rate for a particularly arduous Saturday shift. The union contended the employee was entitled to regular rate plus premium, which together were a continuing salary and therefore constituted "the regular rate."

The third case, in which the arbitrator ruled against the union, concerned a claim for a shift premium on all shifts when a majority of the shifts worked actually called for the premium. The position of the News-Sentinel, which held that the language of the contract did not apply in the case before the arbitrator, was upheld.

Loye W. Miller and Guy Smith acted for the publishers in the hearing. Walter Amann and H. L. Hoffmeister acted for the union.

Snokey Says:



Remember—only you can prevent forest fires!

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The announcement was based on a study of a representative sample of 560 sawmills employing 8 or more workers and typical of the area. Seven southeastern, 4 southwestern, and 3 border states were studied.

The change in the general distribution of lumber sawmilling wage rates is shown below. The number of workers receiving less than 75 cents an hour dropped from about 7 out of 10 to about 1 in 12.

Hourly Earnings	Fall 1949	Spring 1950
Under 75 cents	69.2	8.2
75-79.9 cents	11.0	0.3
80-99.9 cents	11.4	16.0
100 cents or more	8.4	9.5

The greatest increase in the wage level—16 cents per hour—occurred in Alabama and Georgia. These two states have the largest number of sawmill employees in the South; they also had the lowest average rates in the fall of 1949. North Carolina and Tennessee had the lowest average increase in the southeast—9 cents and 10 cents respectively. In Arkansas, the increase amounted to 7 cents, and in Louisiana 12 cents. The smallest advance—1 cent an hour—was in West Virginia where the rate level was relatively high prior to the effective date of the 75-cent minimum.

Wage rate differentials among states dropped appreciably after January 1950. In the 1949 period, the individual state averages ranged from 61 cents in Alabama to 90 cents in West Virginia. This 29-cent spread was reduced to 14 cents by March, 1950, when wage rates ranged from 77 to 91 cents.

The 75-cent minimum had the expected effect of reducing occupational differentials in the sawmilling industry. Of 22 selected sawmill occupations, average rates for 17 fell in the narrow range of 57 to 70 cents in the fall of 1949; average rates in 3 occupations exceeded \$1.00. In March, 1950, average rates for the lower paid group had increased from 10 to 16 cents in all except one occupation (8 cents for truck drivers), while average rates for the 3 highest paid occupations increased about half as much—from 5 to 8 cents per hour.

The prediction that the 75-cent minimum would force hundreds of sawmill operators out of business was not borne out by the survey. Numerous former mill operators were interviewed, but not one reported that he went out of business solely because of the new law. Advancing prices of lumber, caused by the unprecedented demand from the building industry, enabled mill operators to pay higher wages and still compete with Northern and Western operators (whose minimum wage rates had been about 75 cents for several years).

Lumber in the South, a bulletin showing average occupational wage

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CONGRESS VOTES RENT LIDS TO FEBRUARY 28TH SURE

The "lame duck" Congress voted to extend federal rent controls until February 28, 1951, at least.

The Senate approved an extension only to February 28, but the House, acting to fulfill President Truman's and AFL President William Green's request, voted an extension to March 31, 1951.

This will enable the more than 1,700 communities still under federal controls, which have taken no action to act affirmatively to continue the curbs until June 30, 1951, as the present law provides. It will give the 82d Congress a chance to review the situation and decide whether to keep rent controls longer because of the Korean war.

The House and Senate bills now go to conference committees for an agreement on the expiration of the temporary extension.

THANKS!

To Officers and Members of All Organizations Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, Their Families and Friends

I want to take this opportunity to convey to each and every one of you the sincere thanks of the officers and administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education for your excellent support and cooperation during the recent campaign.

We have lost some very good friends in both houses of Congress, and some of our enemies have been returned. However, despite these setbacks the returns show that the ratio of friends retained in an off-year election is very good.

Returns also show that we cannot relax, but rather that we should intensify our efforts to bring a true discussion of the many issues confronting the working people of this country to our members, their families and friends.

Again thanking each and every one of you for the splendid assistance you rendered, I remain

Sincerely and fraternally,
JOSEPH D. KEENAN, Director
Labor's League for Political Education.