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CLOSE OF 1951 N. C. LEGISLATURE NEAR Associate Director Labor Participation Department Community Chests Of America Is Visitor To Charlotte

Robert A. Rosekrans To Address CLU Tonight

North Carolina Labor has a distinguished member of the American Federation of Labor staff in its midst this week. He is Robert A. Rosekrans, associate director of the Labor Participation Department, Community Chests and Councils of America. Bro. Rosekrans came to Charlotte Monday to help prepare the way for a year-round labor educational program concerning Red Feather Services and while here has attended and addressed several meetings of local labor unions during the week. He is co-operating with both labor and the local Community Chest officials in establishing labor's participation program locally.

Charlotte Central Labor Union will hear Mr. Rosekrans in an address at its regular meeting on Thursday night at the Labor Temple, 920 West Trade street. At this meeting Mr. Rosekrans will explain the part members of organized labor can play in making the annual Community Chest campaigns successful events. Also he will explain the ways to develop a successful program in keeping with the four-point program which the Labor Participation department is sponsoring throughout the country.

The four-point program is as follows:

1. A year-round Labor-Management Committee.
2. Red Feathers Tours.
3. A. F. of L.-Social Work Institutes.
4. Speakers from agencies addressing union meetings.

This four-point program is being presented to A. F. of L. unions throughout the country and is resulting in broader understanding between labor organizations and local citizen committees in promoting local community programs.

All local labor representatives are urged to attend this meeting.

RFC Gives Loans Bankers Refuse

The Reconstruction Finance Corp. (RFC) has made money for the American people.

Walter Cosgriff, a RFC board director and a Republican, told the Senate Executive Expenditures Committee, March 21:

"Since its inception (in 1932) the RFC has made approximately 600,000 loans to business, of which at least 9 out of 10 have been to small business. By this, I mean loans of \$100,000 or less. The losses on all loans made have amounted to less than \$200 million—or approximately 1 per cent."

"The taxpayers, through the U. S. Treasury, have made a profit of nearly \$600 million through the activities of the RFC, after payment of all expenses and interest to the Treasury Department and 'charge off' or provision for losses."

What that means is that the RFC has proved that, in almost all cases, it has used good judgment in making loans.



Walter P. Hooker (left), chairman of the Charlotte Central Labor Union, welcomes to Charlotte Robert A. Rosekrans (center), associate director, A. F. of L. division of Labor Participation Department, Community Chests and Councils of America, while Mecklenburg Community Chest President John Watlington, Jr., looks on. Mr. Rosekrans has been in Charlotte this week helping prepare the way for a year-round labor educational program concerning Red Feather Services.



RALEIGH—One irate citizen wrote to his senator cussing members of the legislature for voting themselves special, low-number license plates.

About the nicest thing he said was that if they were so bent on being sure that folks recognized them and their importance then they should legislate themselves some special badges to wear, identifying them as members of the General Assembly.

That won't be necessary. Members—at least most of them—of this Legislature can be recognized easily by the footprint of the lobbyist—professional and political—on their faces.

Many of the lawmakers would have you believe they don't listen to the lobbyists, and claim that the biggest pressure groups are the teachers and state employees. If it hadn't been for the pressure of the private interest lobbyists—fighting not only for their own clients but also helping select committees and generally directing the legislative program—the teachers and state employees

might not ever have had to organize in an attempt to get something done for them.

This year the teacher-state employee organizations didn't do so good. They even had themselves sneered at by Rep. E. T. Bost of Cabarrus, chairman of the House Finance Committee. Bost was fighting additional appropriations for teacher-state employee pay raises.

He labeled the teachers the most "powerful pressure group of the bunch," adding "they worry me more than anyone else."

A day or so earlier he also had complained of teacher pressure, swept an arm toward a galleryful of them and remarked: "See, they're even breathing down our necks right now."

This same Mr. Bost—then objecting to pressure groups—Saturday pulled one out of the hat for the wine boys. Whether it was intentional or not, I do not pretend to know or say.

The House was considering a bill authorizing tax stamps to be placed on all bottles of wine sold

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AFLers Urged To Buy Bonds With Raises

WASHINGTON—Wages must be raised to compensate for higher cost of living and increased productivity.

The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey says "union members, however, have immediate personal responsibilities in fighting inflation" by not rushing to buy scarce consumer goods and by putting higher wages in U. S. Savings Bonds. The survey said:

Millions of workers will have more money to spend in 1951. Overtime pay will increase, more will be employed, and wages are rising. Business income will increase, too, but more of this will be taken in taxes and much of the rest must be spent for plant expansion.

This new income, earned by workers and management in manufacturing military equipment for Uncle Sam, will cost at least \$20 billion per year under the present program, even after today's higher taxes have been paid out of it.

Labor Bills Killed; Pleas State Workers Rejected

The 1951 session of the North Carolina Assembly is scheduled to come to a close early part of next week with many of Labor's proposals buried beneath the debris of rejections made by the lawmakers. Raises for school teachers and other state employees were tossed overboard during the last days of the 1951 gathering as were many of Labor's proposals, one of which would have modified the North Carolina Right-to-Work law to bring it more in line with the Taft-Hartley act on the national statute books, and also the 75-cent minimum wage law proposal.

Restaurant Prices Go On Mark-Up

WASHINGTON—An OPS order, effective April 1, allows restaurants and other public eating places to adjust their prices to reflect actual increases in food costs only, but holds mark-up margins to pre-Korean levels. The same order requires menu price cuts when food prices decline. Restaurants that have unjustly raised prices over food costs since last July 1 are required to roll back their prices. Ceiling Price Regulation 10 makes it mandatory for public eating places to give the public the same dollar value of food per dollar of sales as they did prior to July 1, 1950. Menu price roll-backs are required if necessary to accomplish this. The order covers the serving of beverages as well as food.

All restaurants, which are now under the OPS General Ceiling Price Regulation, the "general freeze" order, must be in compliance with the new order at the end of each four-months' period, starting April 1. Violators are subject to penalties.

OPS Director DiSalle pointed out the restaurant business is one of few to experience a decline in dollar volume in 1950, compared with 1949 or 1948, indicating that inflationary pressures have been less prevalent in this line.

The failure of the General Assembly to consider modifications to the North Carolina labor law does not by any means mean that North Carolina Labor will discard its efforts in the future to have this law either repealed outright or else changed to eliminate the conflicts in the statute with the national Taft-Hartley act. And, too, it is safe to predict that labor will be back in the 1953 Legislature with stronger demands for modifications in one of the most drastic laws on the books of any state in the Union. Labor is not at all satisfied with the snubbing given it by legislators of the 1951 gathering of the State's law-making bodies.

The veterans have a crow to pick too at the next session. Their pleas for a veterans bonus was rejected at a recent session, and another measure introduced by Tom Sawyer of Durham in the Senate this week will no doubt be left hanging in the hopper when the clock records the time of adjournment Tuesday (?) It is understood that the farmers are not so well satisfied with some actions. They tried to get sales tax exemptions on farm machinery and equipment, for one thing, and this was denied them.

About \$43,000,000 more than the original budget estimate called for has been provided for various state activities and many lawmakers feel that to go much over this would be disastrous to the state's financial standing, while others reject this idea.

Prices, Taxes, Rents Alarm Citizens, President Green Says

AFL President William Green said in a radio address over Columbia Broadcasting System that the American people are alarmed by the failures to control inflation.

Speaking for the United Labor Policy Committee representing 15 million workers, Mr. Green laid down the reasons for the American people's dissatisfaction with Defense Mobilization in these words:

High Prices
Let me emphasize that labor's aim is to make America stronger, not weaker. Our desire is to halt inflation, not to promote it. Our basic protest is that the American people are not getting an effective stabilization program.

I regret to report that so far the government has failed utterly in the fight against inflation.

That failure is obvious. Every housewife knows it. Prices are still going up and up and up. The cost of living, even as measured by the conservative official index, keeps climbing higher and higher. The value of the dollar is shrinking rapidly every day. These are immediate and alarming symptoms of inflation. The plain people of this country are being hurt by it. Millions of Americans who must depend upon wages for their living, and others dependent upon fixed incomes such as pensions, are being victimized. The government has repeatedly promised them that it will hold the line. It has not done so.

The price control law is due to

expire June 30. It must be renewed and strengthened. As yet the administration has made no move to urge Congress to act promptly.

The margin-of-profit system provides price ladders instead of price ceilings. Everything is permitted to go up, but nothing is ordered to come down. Stores are allowed to set their own prices, based upon their own bookkeeping and their own profit margins. There will be no such thing as a dollar-and-cents price ceiling. No customer will be able to check whether the storekeeper is selling his goods at legal prices. Neither will the government. Enforcement is obviously impossible, even if it were intended.

Why are such atrocities being committed in the name of price control? The answer is clear.

The nation's whole defense mobilization program, from top to bottom, is staffed by the representatives of big business.

They are chiefly concerned, not with protecting the public, but with protecting the public, but

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Sheet Metal Workers Get Extension Of Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of Charlotte Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 238 has been extended to include 51 counties of southern North Carolina, which runs from the Tennessee boundary line to Wilmington on the east. Plans for bringing Asheville Local No. 8 and other local union jurisdictions into the Charlotte Local were begun December 11, 1950, and completed March 1; this year.

All local unions in North Carolina have during recent months been consolidated into the jurisdictions of the Durham and Charlotte local unions, according to Phillip Hughes, Charlotte business agent for Local 238. Brother Hughes has been in his present position with the Sheet Metal Workers for several years and during this time has been very active in local labor affairs. His efforts to organize the unorganized workers is beginning to show up in the form of telling results and The Labor Journal commends him for his active interest in both his own local union and also in the labor movement in general.

In recent months Mr. Hughes has been called into not only many local conferences but has been summoned to out-of-state meetings where he has contributed much to the cause of his own union and that of others.

RAILROADS PILE UP PROFITS, WANT MORE

Last January, the 125 big railroads made four times as much money as in January, 1949. On March 14, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) said the railroads could charge from two to four per cent more for freight. That's their 10th freight raise since the end of World War II.



PHILLIP HUGHES

BIG BUSINESS HITS SMALL FABRICATORS

Small businessmen know what trade unionists mean when they say that big business is running the defense program.

Iron Age, a magazine for the metalworking industry, reported February 21 small metal processors were being hit hard by the defense program.

"Hardest hit, as usual, are the small metal fabricators," Iron Age stated. "They are being starved by material cutbacks. Juicy defense contracts are not being received in quantity."

Organized Labor's Program for Action

Sixteen million trade unionists are united behind a six-point program to bring democracy to the defense program.

The six-point plan of action was adopted unanimously by 700 representatives of the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods at a meeting March 1 in Washington called by the United Labor Policy Committee.

The program stresses the important fact that unorganized, as well as organized workers, housewives, farmers, small businessmen and pensioned old folks must work together to get a fair defense program.

The most important objective is Congressional passage of a workable Defense Production Act. The present law—cornerstone of the defense program—ends June 30.

The plan of action calls for the formation of local consumer committees, wide distribution of vot-

ing records of Congressmen on defense bills, visits to Senators and Representatives, meetings throughout the country and wide use of all methods of publicity.

Here is the six-point program:

1. Enlist co-operation in support of this anti-inflation program from all community organizations which support our democratic institutions and are devoted to the anti-totalitarian objectives of America's defense program.

2. Promote public meetings, radio and television programs, speeches before community groups and other appropriate means of alerting every citizen to the need for improved defense mobilization and anti-inflation policies.

3. Forward letters, telegrams, petitions and memorials to President Truman and Members of Congress in support of the principle of equal sacrifice and fair play in the mobilization program. Our first objective is the improve-

ment of the Defense Production Act.

4. Help establish local consumer committees through which the people may be fully advised of the developments in Washington, violations of price regulations may be publicized, and to co-operate with public-spirited merchants for local anti-inflation programs.

5. Encourage authorized delegations from labor and other groups to seek appointments with Senators and Congressmen during the forthcoming Easter recess to set forth the problems of the consumer.

6. Secure the widest publicity through the labor press and, if necessary, through the purchase of local radio time and newspaper space, for the voting record of Senators and Congressmen on major bills affecting the fight against inflation and for a better defense mobilization program.