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N. C. EMPLOYMENT INCREASED DURING MAY

American Workers Must Spur Selves To Greater Political Activity

CHARLOTTE AREA EMPLOYMENT INCREASES

EARNINGS AND HOURS ALSO RISE SLIGHTLY IN MAY

RALEIGH, July 7.—Employment in factories and selected non-manufacturing industries in the Charlotte area increased 1,100 during May, the State Department of Labor reported today.

Factory employment was up 500 to a total of 21,700 due to gains of 600 in textile mills and 100 in food products. These employment gains were reduced by decreases of 100 each in apparel manufacturing and miscellaneous manufacturing industries, Pritchard said. Total employment in the area's textile industry stood at 9,300 during May.

Non-manufacturing industries which reported employment gains were contract construction, up 600 over the April level; retail trade, up 100; and finance, insurance and real estate, up 100. The net gain over the month of all non-manufacturing industries surveyed was 600 workers employed. Wholesale trade firms were down 100, in line with a trend evident throughout the State.

Increases in hours and earnings were reported by most Charlotte area industries. The average factory worker put in 40.3 hours during the week surveyed in May, earned \$1.25 an hour (up two cents above April earnings), and averaged \$49.83 a week (up 82 cents above April).

Average hourly earnings in the area's textile industry were up three cents to \$1.34. Both yarn and thread mills and broad woven fabrics reported three-cents-an-hour gains. However, the area's knitting mills reported a drop of three cents an hour.

Other changes in hourly earnings of workers were as follows: machinery, down two cents to \$1.18; printing and publishing, down three cents to \$1.69; metal products, down a penny to \$1.33; apparel, up two cents to \$1.04; chemicals, up a penny to \$1.13. Food products and stone, clay and glass products firms reported no change in hourly earnings. However, a drop of 3.7 hours in the workweek of stone, clay and glass industries caused weekly earnings of workers to drop \$4.18 to an average of \$43.32. The apparel industry worked 42.4 hours a week, up more than two hours from the April schedule. Knitting mills also were up sharply in working hours, averaging four hours a week longer than in April. The workweek in broad woven fabrics was down fractionally, and in yarn and thread mills was down 2.2 hours below the April average.

IS THIS "ECONOMY"?

How honest are the "economy" boys in Congress when they plead they want the Government to quit spending "so much"?

Among them are such stalwart sons of slashing the budget as Republican Reps. Daniel Reed (N. Y.), James Van Zandt (Pa.), Sid Simpson (Ill.) and Thomas Werdel (Calif.).

They are "Yes, but" Congressmen. They say, "Yes, let's cut spending, but no in my district." On June 13, the House considered the Army civil functions appropriations bill. This deals with such things as flood control, dams and rivers and harbors. It's one of the biggest pork barrel measures on Capitol Hill.

What did Reed do? He tried to wangle an extra \$34,500 for flood control work in his district. What did Van Zandt do? He tried to wangle an extra \$6,475,000 for flood control work in his district.

What did Simpson do? He tried to wangle an extra \$2,976,000 for flood control work in his district.

What did Werdel do? He tried to wangle an extra \$15,000 for

Food Prices Drop Slightly In Tarheelia

Raleigh Food Stores Report Largest Price Decline

RALEIGH, July 7.—Retail prices of 53 food items dropped slightly between March 15 and June 15 in six out of seven North Carolina cities in which prices were checked, the State Department of Labor reported today.

Largest price decline was reported for Raleigh food stores, where the total price of the 53-item "market basket" dropped 1.5 per cent during the three months. Five other cities also reported very minor price decreases. These were: Charlotte, down one per cent; Greensboro, down 0.9 per cent; Asheville, down 0.8 per cent; Wilmington, down 0.3 per cent; and Greenville, down 0.1 per cent.

In Salisbury, the average total price of the "market basket" increased 0.1 per cent over the three-month period. Salisbury was the only city which an increase in food costs was reported. However, Salisbury was fourth among the seven cities in total cost of the 53 food items.

The relative positions of the seven cities on June 15 were as follows (from highest to lowest):

City	Market Basket Cost On June 15
Greensboro	\$21.17
Greenville	21.00
Charlotte	20.99
Salisbury	20.96
Raleigh	20.94
Raleigh	20.94
Wilmington	20.82
Asheville	20.81

Two of the cities held the same relative positions on June 15 as they did on March 15. These were Greensboro, where prices were highest among all the cities on both dates, and Charlotte, which remained in third place. Greenville moved from fourth place up to second. Salisbury moved from sixth to fourth. Raleigh dropped from second highest on March 15 to fifth from the top on June 15. Wilmington, where prices were lowest of all on March 15, moved up a notch to sixth place on June 15. Asheville dropped from fifth place to the bottom of the list.

Actually, the spread of prices between the seven cities amounts to only 36 cents.

a study of water distribution in his district.

The House defeated these attempts by leaders of the "economy" bloc to get an extra \$10 million for their districts.

Supreme Court Decisions Show Need For Repealing Taft-Hartley Law.

Three recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court show why the Taft-Hartley act must be repealed. They show why Taft-Hartley handcuffs trade unions in the free exercise of their democratic rights.

The moral for organized labor is this: Workingmen and women must spur themselves to greater political activity. This means learning the stands of their Senators and Congressmen on Taft-Hartley. It means organization. It means contributing to the effort of Labor's League for Political Education in electing the friends of the worker and in defeating his enemies.

On June 4 the Supreme Court ruled three AFL unions broke the T-H law. Those involved were the Denver Building and Construction Trades Council, the Electrical Workers in Greenwich, Conn., and the Carpenters in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Building trades workers had walked off their jobs after contractors on union projects brought in sub-contractors who hired nonunion workers.

Down through the years, building trades unionists always have refused to work alongside "free riders." It is one of their strongest traditions.

The Court decided such action violates Taft-Hartley's

provision against secondary boycotts.

The unions feel their action in Denver, Greenwich and Chattanooga constituted primary boycotts which are legal; that their peaceful picketing was an exercise of the constitutional right of free speech, and that the projects were not in interstate commerce and thus not subject to provisions of the Taft-Hartley law.

Justice Stanley Reed and William Douglas disagreed with the rest of the Court and said:

"The employment of union and non-union men on the same job is a basic protest in trade union history. . . . The union (in Denver) was not out to destroy the contractor because of his anti-union attitude. The union was not pursuing the contractor to other jobs. All the union asked was that union men not be compelled to work alongside non-union men on the same job."

"The picketing would undoubtedly have been legal if there had been no sub-contractor involved if the general contractor had put non-union men on the job. The presence of a sub-contractor does not alter one whit the realities of the situation; the protest of the union is precisely the same . . . trying to protect the job on which union men are employed."

But the Court majority holds a union may not influence the employees of a sub-contractor or any other employer "BY PICKETING OR RELATED CONDUCT" to quit or refuse work in order to force a primary employer from doing business with a sub-contractor who hires non-union workers.

What that means is that a business agent can no longer tell trade unionists, "Boys, your boss are working for is using non-union contractor. Will you stand for it?" He can't even say to a

May Building Permits Total Over \$10 Million

RALEIGH, July 6. — May building permits totaled \$9,590,551 in 75 North Carolina cities and towns, the State Department of Labor reported today.

The May figure was slightly higher than the April total according to Labor Department statistician C. H. Pritchard. However, it was nearly \$5 million lower than the total of May, 1950.

The month's building permits included new housing with an estimated construction cost of \$4,492,400, non-residential building projects totaling \$4,024,033, and additions, alterations and repairs valued at \$1,074,118, Pritchard said.

Housing authorized during May included 448 detached, single-family dwellings, 73 semi-detached and row houses, 46 duplexes, and four apartment buildings. Also authorized was one \$45,000 tourist cabin project. The housing provides a total of 655 new family dwellings, or 151 fewer than were authorized during April. Average estimated construction cost of the 448 privately-owned single family dwellings was \$8,041. This construction cost figure was substantially higher than the average reported for April and is in line with a

(Continued On Page 3)

group of carpenters, for instance, "Fellows, this sub-contractor you are working for is using non-union electricians. What are you going to do about it?"

President Daniel Tracy of the AFL Electrical Workers predicts the rulings will produce "chaos in the building industry."

"This is the harshest blow we have suffered so far," Tracy says. "It bears out our prediction that one of the aims of the Taft-Hartley act was to destroy the building trades unions."

He warns long-established and stable relations in the industry will be destroyed if contractors and others take advantage of these decisions.

"There is only one solution," Tracy points out. "That is repeal of the abominable Taft-Hartley law."

Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Keenan of the AFL Building and Construction Trades department terms the decisions "shocking."

"It proves what we have said all along," Keenan says. "The T-H act is a time bomb set to destroy the labor movement."

There is no possibility that the sections of Taft-Hartley which the Supreme Court found the unions had violated will be repealed or changed. The contractors and industrialists spent too much money in the court fight to allow that to happen.

The only solution is repeal of the entire act. The only way to kill the act is to elect a friendly Congress in 1952.

The only way to elect a friendly Congress in 1952 is to get out and work. That means seeing that your fellow trade unionists understand what the law does to them, that they register to vote and that they cast their ballots for candidates who will vote to repeal Taft-Hartley.

That's a big job—but it can be done.

RALEIGH, July 6. — Non-agricultural employment in North Carolina totaled 917,900 during May, rising 6,600 over the April level, it was announced today by C. H. Pritchard, director of the division of statistics of the State Department of Labor.

The State's manufacturing industries registered a net gain of 2,700 in total factory employment during the month, despite some decreases in leading industries, Pritchard reported. Non-manufacturing industries gained 3,900 employees over the month.

WASHINGTON WEEKLY COLUMN

BREHM FINED \$5,000

Rep. Walter Brehm (R., Ohio) has been fined \$5,000 for taking \$1,000 in salary kickbacks from a former employee in his office.

When he was fined June 11 by Federal Judge Burnita Matthews in Washington, Brehm also was given a suspended jail sentence of 5 to 15 months. If he stays out of trouble he won't have to go to jail.

Brehm has a bad anti-labor record. He was convicted on the kickbacks charge April 30. Among those who testified that Brehm was of good character were Ohio's two Republican Senators, Robert Taft and John Bricker.

A jury found Brehm had taken \$200 a month in kickbacks for five months from an elderly woman employee. Brehm hired her at a good salary with the understanding that she had to give him back part of that salary each month.

U. S. NEEDS POWER TO CONTROL QUALITY

AFL President William Green asked Congress to put teeth into the new Defense Production act to enforce standards of quality in manufactured items. He said:

"No one can blame businessmen for disliking the process under which the prices of their products are controlled. The administration of any price control program has to expect businessmen to seek ways to circumvent the various price control regulations."

"The operations of OPA during World War II proved that perhaps the most important way businessmen try to avoid their obligations under price control is by lowering quality under the pressure of a price ceiling."

CORPORATIONS VS. CHILDREN

"Are the lives of our children and the health of our mothers worth anything at all?" asked Senator George Aiken in a speech in the Senate June 11.

"To hear the talk this afternoon one might assume that perhaps we ought to drown them all and get them out of the way. Then they would not cost us anything at all."

Aiken is fed up with Senators who think only of saving money when the Government tries to help ordinary people. These same reactionaries—men like Senators Harry Cain (R., Wash.) and John Bricker (R., Ohio) say nothing when the Government pours out money to Big Business.

"We are spending billions of dollars in helping corporations expand their industrial plants, at the expense of our tax payers. We hear little objection here . . . to such expenditures," Aiken adds. "I do not see how a Senator can stand on the floor and talk about saving a hundred dollars or a thousand dollars at the expense of someone's life. . . . We are being asked to let the crippled stay crippled. . . . I do not know what we can have in mind when we talk about saving a few dollars at the expense of lives."

Less business and cancellation of orders were reported as the reasons for a drop of 1,500 in furniture factory employment and a decrease of 6,600 in lumber and timber products. Seasonal employment decreases were reported by tobacco stemmeries and re-drying plants, down 600, and chemical products, down 700. Food products industries showed an increase of 400 to seasonal factors. Employment in service industries also increased seasonally by 900 workers. Better business and dry weather caused a rise of 2,000 in employment in the construction industry. Retail trade employment increased 1,200, while wholesale firms reported a drop of 700 due to lack of current orders.

The State's textile mill employment level was up 5,300 over April, totaling 236,500 in May. Although most of the textile strikes have been settled, employment in textiles has not regained its March level of 240,600 because of a continued mild slump in business. The May increases in textile employment (4,800 in broad woven fabrics and 1,800 in yarn and thread mills) were balanced partially by employment decreases of 2,400 in seamless hosiery and 600 in full fashioned hosiery. Apparel factories also reported a drop of 300 due to strikes in mills supplying materials and to a lack of current orders.

The average North Carolina factory worker during May put in a workweek of 38.8 hours—down one hour from April. His hourly rate of pay remained unchanged at \$1.18. His weekly earnings averaged \$45.89, or 91 cents less than during April. No very significant changes in hourly rates of pay were reported, although several industries registered gains of a few cents an hour in workers' earnings.

The textile and furniture industries operated on a somewhat shorter workweek during May. However, the workweek was longer in tobacco manufacturing and food products. Retail trade showed a normal drop in hours due to beginning of the summer mid-week afternoon closings.

BUSINESS BOOMS

Is business being ruined by price controls and taxes?

The Commerce Dept. and the Securities and Exchange Commission reported June 20 business plans to break all records in expending its plants this year.

It spent a record \$6.4 billion for new plants and equipment during the April-May-June quarter. And it will spend \$18 billion for these purposes for the first nine months of the year. That will be 41 per cent more than during the same period of 1950.

The increase is due mainly, officials say, to a real increase in physical volume and not to higher prices.

So businessmen themselves figure they will do extremely well from now on.

"A dollar a year man is a fellow who has a dollar left after paying his taxes." — Radio Commentator Ed Fitzgerald.