

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

VOL. XXI: NO. 12

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT GAINS OVER MAY, '50

Charlotte CLU Elects Officers



PHILIP F. HUGHES, President
Charlotte Building Trades Council

Charlotte Building Trades Council Names Officers Year 1951-52

Philip F. Hughes was elected president of Charlotte Building Trades Council at its regular meeting on July 19. A. B. Dixon was named vice president, and C. P. Murphy was elected secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Hughes is business manager of the Charlotte Sheet Metal Workers' union and has recently had considerable additional territory added to his local union here. He now covers territory from Asheville to Wilmington over an almost direct line through the southern part of North Carolina. Mr. Hughes is one of the most active union officials in North Carolina and his union has grown large under his leadership. The other brother officers named with Mr. Hughes are active in their local union affairs and The Journal predicts the building trades will experience considerable growth and new activity under their leadership during the coming year.

PROFITS BOOM AS THE GUNS ROAR

Despite the excess profits tax, net profits of corporations increased 36 per cent in January, February and March of this year over the figures for the same months of 1950.

The rise in corporate profits, after taxes, during the Korean war was reported July 5 by the Federal Trade and the Securities and Exchange Commissions.

Uncle Sam Says



This April, 174 years after the original Minute Men fought the battle of Lexington, our country is once more forced to defend these rights. The ultimate success of this defense effort depends on the maintenance of a sound national economy. You should have an important part in this defense effort which can be fulfilled by the purchase of U. S. Defense Bonds. Buy them now and buy them regularly. Review your budget today and then enroll for the Payroll Savings Plan where you work or the Bond-A-Month Plan at your bank. U. S. Treasury Department



J. A. SCOGGINS, President



CLAUDE L. ALBEA,
Vice-President



H. A. STALLS, Secretary

New officers for the year 1951-52 were elected at the regular bi-monthly meeting of Charlotte Central Labor Union Thursday night. J. A. Scoggins was named president; Claude L. Albea was elected vice president; H. A. Stalls secretary, and John Lovett, treasurer. The board of trustees, consisting of three members, was named as follows: J. A. Scoggins and E. A. Tarver. Phil Hughes and H. A. Stalls were named alternates.

Delegates were named to the North Carolina State Federation of Labor meeting in Asheville in August as follows: J. A. Scoggins and E. A. Tarver. Phil Hughes and H. A. Stalls were named alternates.

Thursday night's meeting was one of the best held in months. A good attendance was on hand to participate in the deliberations. Many communications were read and acted upon and reports of delegates from local unions were interesting to all present, all of the unions reporting full employment and conditions very good.

New delegates from both the carpenters and electrical workers union No. 379 produced their credentials and they were received and seated. For the carpenters Bros. W. E. Seymour, John Lovett, P. A. Martin, L. E. Glenn and F. G. Hahn were received, while for the electrical workers local 379 Bros. Odie Heath and Chester A. Martin were the new delegates from their local.

Treasurer John Lovett made a comprehensive report of the CLU's finances and the condition of the treasury was shown to be very good.

The retiring president, Bro. Walter Hooker, made a talk before he left the chair he has held for the past two years, saying that while he was not a candidate to succeed himself he will nevertheless continue to work for the best interests of labor as a

delegate from his local. He is business manager of electrical workers local 379 and stated that his union's affairs have grown to the extent that he will be compelled to devote more of his time to his union during the next few months than heretofore.

The convention call of the North Carolina Federation of Labor was read. The meeting this year will be held in Asheville at the Langren Hotel, beginning Monday, August 13 and lasting for three days or until all the business of the convention has been transacted. Hotel rates of the many Asheville hotels were also received and read. The Journal will reprint the entire convention call next week.

ROSSER CAUTIONS MOTORISTS TO BE CAREFUL WHEN GOING THRU TOBACCO BELT

RALEIGH, N. C.—Motor Vehicles Commissioner L. C. Rosser today asked that vacation bound motorists be especially cautious when traveling the tobacco producing regions of Eastern North Carolina.

The Commissioner said that he had personally noticed a great number of farm boys and girls at work on tobacco sleds which are usually pulled from field to field along the shoulders of the highway. These children, he added, are prime targets for the speeding or careless driver.

Rosser was particularly anxious for out-of-state motorists to heed the precaution. "Many of our tourists driving through North Carolina he said are puzzled at the bulky, mule drawn sleds. He urged all motorists approaching the tobacco-laden sleds to slow down and pass with caution.

Children along the highway, the Commissioner said, should be watched by the driver just as closely as any road sign or signal.

WASHINGTON WEEKLY COLUMN

The Facts of Life

Brent Spence (D., Ky.) is chairman of the House Banking Committee. That's the group which had charge of the House measure to control prices. It held many hearings on controls. This is what Spence told the House June 29 about what went on in the hearings:

"Every witness that came there came to speak for his own interests. Every one who spoke for an interest that he was engaged in intimated that it would be satisfactory if they took the controls off him and put them on others.

"We send the boys to the front and they give all they have. But I tell you, you do not see that spirit of sacrifice very much in industry. Every fellow that came in wanted to grab something and give nothing.

"Now they come here and they pool their interests. 'You scratch my back and I will scratch yours, and we will get out from under all controls.'

Senator Feels People Are Betrayed

The reactionaries in the Senate who played politics with your pocket-book and voted for the profiteers and against the consumers when they rammed through a watered-down price controls bill led Sen. Herbert Lehman (D., N. Y.) to tell them June 28 something they should have heard long ago.

It is this: They are ruining the Senate. But let Lehman tell it:

"I have had a long public life. I was president of the Senate of my State for four years. I was governor for 10 years. I have been in the U. S. Senate going on two years.

"I came to the Senate in the belief which I had always held that it was the greatest deliberative body in the world. I still want to believe that. But certainly what has occurred here in the last few moments and in the last few days makes me doubt it altogether.

"Here we are engaged in a life-and-death struggle, a struggle for survival against the most ruthless enemy in history, fighting on two fronts, on the military and on the economic. We ought to be engaged exclusively in considering legislation to benefit all the people of the country, legislation to keep our country on a sound economic basis.

"Yet, here I see and hear Senator after Senator rise, not to concern himself with the issues before us, but to play politics, to blast the Administration, to attack those who have given up the comfort of their home towns and circles of friends and the profits of their business, to come to Washington and to serve their fellow Americans.

"I tell you, Mr. President, it has made me heart-sick to hear all this. It makes me feel that we are betraying the people who sent us down here, that we are not concerning ourselves with essential legislation, that we are not devoting ourselves to protecting the great masses of our people, but are moving to pass legislation which far from reducing the cost of living, will inevitably increase and advance the cost of living."

Election day in 1952 will be November 4.

Congressman And Newspaper Urge Strong Wage Stabilization Board

Rep. Jack Shelley

Rep. Jack Shelley (D.) of San Francisco says the Wage Stabilization Board (WSB) should be strengthened.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) want to make WSB so weak it won't be able to settle labor-management disputes.

"From my long experience I know that the matter of wages and other issues are inextricably intertwined in the give and take over the collective bargaining table," Shelley, long active in the California labor movement, told the House on June 29.

"I . . . recommend that the Wage Stabilization Board be given specific authority . . . to consider such side issues and to make decisions thereon during the period of emergency.

The Washington Post

The Washington Post, which follows a conservative economic line on economic questions, warns against wrecking the Wage Stabilization Board (WSB).

"Industrial peace would be jeopardized and strikes would multiply if the WSB machinery for peaceful settlement of disputes over non-wage issues were put out of commission," says an editorial in the July 1 Post. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) want to do just that.

"The sponsors of the proposed changes (in WSB) or . . . playing with fire in trying to abandon a wage control program that, by insuring labor's support, will encourage peaceful settlement of wage disputes . . ."

Here's Why Beef Prices Must Be Cut

Price Stabilizer Mike DiSalle tells why beef prices must be rolled back:

"Cattle prices rose way out of line with wages and other prices. Between January, 1950, the date of the wage stabilization base, and March, 1951, cattle prices rose:

"Over five times as much as wages.

"Over four times as much as prices paid by farmers.

"Over five times as much as . . . consumer prices.

"Over three times as much as the price of (all) food items.

"Beef accounts for about 13 per cent of the consumer's food bill and for almost half of the meat consumed in this country."

DiSalle made these statements in a letter to The Washington Post published July 9.

SAD NEWS

Economic Stabilizer Eris Johnston said June 19 Congressional action forbidding price rollbacks is "sad news to every American housewife who is struggling with her own family budget."

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION

THREATENS UNIONS

Richmond, Va.—Virginia workers, preparing for the 1952 political campaign, are looking over the records of members of the House of Delegates to see how they stood on the so-called Boatwright amendment.

This legislation would prohibit the collection of working assessments. Thus it would have the effect of destroying unions—particularly in the building trades—because it would kill their financing.

It would also permit "free riders" to enjoy the benefits won by unions—such as hours and conditions of work—without supporting them.

The amendment lost last year by just two votes.

TAFITISM

"The emergency is more threatening than real," Sen. Robert Taft (R., Ohio) told Washington reporters, June 7. "It is on our backs."

Joe Stalin is just a mirage, eh, Senator?

Employment Security News

Charlotte House Warming

Open House was observed all day July 11 in the new Charlotte office, located at 112-118 West First Street, between South Tryon and South Church Streets, into which Manager George H. Everette, Jr., and his staff moved as of July 1. The white and divisional offices are both located in the entire first floor of the two-story brick building, with separate entrances. The office was located at 505 1-2 West Trade St. for several years.

The new office has been properly decorated for the occasion and friends have been invited to drop in any time during the day for a look-see and for refreshments. Chairman Henry E. Kendall, Ernest C. McCracken, ES Division director, his assistant, Robert M. du Bruyne, and S. C. (Buster) Manning, ESC business manager, are attending the opening from the Central office.

The building has been completely renovated for the agency's office, with entirely new front and

with all modern conveniences. All of the first floor space is occupied by the regular office staff, Area Supervisor Guy E. Bissette, Field Representative N. J. Orr and J. B. Harris, Claims Deputy C. E. Brewer and their clerical and secretarial staffs.

All of the staff members are highly pleased with the new building and location and are sparing no efforts to get many of their friends in the local office area to visit and celebrate with them.

Regional Office in Richmond

Transfer of the Regional office for Region IV, embracing the states of North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia, to Richmond, Va., from Washington, in which city it has been located from the beginning, is announced by Secretary of Labor Matrice J. Tobin, effective as of last Saturday, July 7.

The Regional office, with John Francis Foy as regional director (Continued On Page 2)

Southeastern manufacturing establishments employed 107,900 more workers in May, 1951, than during the corresponding month of 1950, according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the South. All states reported over-the-year gains, ranging from 4.3 per cent in Alabama to 10.9 per cent in Mississippi. Factory employment reached 1,817,800 in May—an increase of 2,000 over last month.

Textile employment rose 10,200 to a level of 609,900 in May. Seasonal reductions and less business partially offset the return to work of a number of workers involved in labor disputes. Compared to May, 1950, employment in the industry had increased 20,800 with gains ranging from 6,100 in North Carolina to 200 in Virginia.

Employment was up 3,600 over April in food processing establishments as 148,600 workers were employed in May. Georgia, with a gain of 2,000 primarily due to seasonal hiring at canning and preserving plants, and Tennessee, with an increase of 2,000, led in the over-the-month gains. Florida, with a drop of 1,400, principally in canning and preserving, had the largest decline.

Apparel employment, totaling 128,100 in May, declined seasonally 3,400 from April. Compared to May, 1950, however, this industry had increased 10,800. Tennessee had the largest over-the-year gain—an increase of 5,400. Georgia reported the only loss—a decline of 1,600. Virginia and North Carolina reported no change for the twelve month period.

Chemicals employment dropped 1,900 from the April level of 124,000 as seasonal reductions occurred in fertilizer plants and vegetable oil mills. Current employment in the industry is 18,900 above the May, 1950 level.

The greatest over-the-year increase in hard goods industries occurred in the lumber and wood products industry. A total of 265,300 workers were employed in May, 1951—an increase of 15,300 over May, 1950.

Employment in the Metals industries dropped 2,200 from April due principally to labor disputes in the metal alloys industry in Alabama. Current employment, totaling 108,900, is 4,900 higher than May, 1950. Other hard goods industries had over-the-year changes as follows: Furniture, down 1,000; Transportation, up 14,500; Stone, Clay and Glass, up 4,400; Machinery, up 9,900, and Instruments, up 700.

Gross average weekly earnings of factory production workers ranged from \$42.43 in Mississippi to \$51.05 in Alabama. Over-the-year increases ranged from \$6.35 in South Carolina to \$2.64 in Mississippi. All states, with the exception of Tennessee, had a longer workweek than in 1950. Average weekly hours in May, 1951, varied from a low of 38.3 in North Carolina to a high of 42.9 in Florida as compared to the national average of 40.6. Average hourly earnings in all states were substantially over 1950 levels. Increases ranged from twelve cents an hour in South Carolina to four cents in Mississippi.

Data for the eight southeastern states were prepared by state agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Any person interested in receiving this material may do so by writing to Mr. Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Room 664, 50 Seventh Street, N. E., Atlanta 5, Georgia.

Election day this year in several states and cities will be November 6.