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## N. C. FEDERATION MEETING OPENS MONDAY Some Fed Laws Need Amending

### Any Delegate Regularly Seated Should Be Eligible To Be Elected To Office

Where would the great A. F. of L. be if suppressive laws had been set up in its early years to prevent the capable Union men and women being elected to offices in their organizations? That question needs answering at the 1951 convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

Many controversies have arisen at each convention of the State Federation of Labor for the past several years regarding Article 5, Section 1 of the Federation's constitution which prevents union representatives and others from holding office on the executive board, no matter if they are directly employed by AFL unions, therefore denying the delegates to a convention the right to nominate and elect certain ones of the duly elected and regularly seated delegates for positions on the executive board. In other words, many who are qualified to run for office are ruled out by a provision in the constitution which by all means has no place in our democratic organization.

At least one member of the present executive board claims that to change this law would pave the way for places of leadership in the N. C. Federation of Labor to be "open to dictatorship," while there are others who are not members of the present executive board who contend that no more violent form of "dictatorship" could possibly exist under a changed constitution than that which exists under the present law.

The following article regarding this controversy recently appeared in The Durham Labor Journal, whose editor at last year's Winston-Salem convention endeavored to get Article 5, Section 1 amended to allow any duly seated delegate to run for office. The controversy in this article accentuates the rising tide against the present executive board in some of its rulings and policies in connection with their conduct of Federation affairs:

"Lewis E. Price, international representative of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, Plymouth, who was elected a vice president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor in 1949 and re-elected in 1950, has written a letter to The Labor Journal in answer to a letter by NCFL Vice President James Gillespie, Jr., of Reidsville.

"Vice President Gillespie wrote a letter to The Journal which appeared in the June 23rd issue of this paper. The letter defended Article 5, Section 1 of the Federation Constitution, which bars international representatives from holding office on the executive board of the state organization. At the 1950 convention an effort was made to amend this section in order to allow any member of the AFL, seated as a delegate to a convention to be eligible for office on the executive body of the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

"In his letter, Gillespie says

#### BIG POLITICAL ACTION IS NEEDED BY LABOR

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the AFL Retail Clerks convention July 17 that organized workers and other wage earners have little influence in Congress.

"This situation regarding special interests lobbies in Congress is the most deplorable I've ever seen," Meany said. "But you can't get any protective legislation up there on the grounds you represent workers.

"The answer is that labor must meet the threat through political action. Whether or not you like it or believe in it, American labor is going for political action in a big way."

that amendment of Article 5, Section 1 of the constitution would leave the places of leadership in the N. C. Federation of Labor 'open to dictatorship.' In his letter, Price defends the rights of international representatives who are members of local unions affiliated with the state group, and states he will support an amendment to the section.

"The Journal has learned that Price recently resigned from the executive board of the federation, after having been re-elected in absentia last year while he was attending a convention of his international union on the Pacific Coast. Price's letter follows:

"The Editor,  
"Durham Labor Journal,  
"Durham, N. C.

"In the June 23 issue of The Durham Labor Journal there appeared a letter to the Editor signed by James Gillespie, Jr., of Reidsville, in which he attempted to point out the evils and pitfalls of 'permitting international representatives and others to become officers of the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

"I have NO intention to run for any office at the Asheville convention nor am I interested in promoting any one else for office.

"Inasmuch as I am an international representative in North Carolina who has been elected to the executive board of the N. C. F. L. for the last two years, I feel that I am in a position to speak on the other side of the question which Brother Gillespie apparently wishes the delegates to the Asheville Convention to consider.

"Let us leave personalities out of our thinking on the subject of who should not be considered eligible to fill these offices. Our ability to think clearly on such a question as this becomes warped when we think in terms of personalities instead of whether or not such a change will promote the well-being of the organization and its members.

"Cries of 'dictatorship' have no foundation in fact whatsoever; none of us can seriously believe that the thousands of A. F. of L. members of North Carolina are weak-kneed enough to be dictated to by a few international representatives of the executive board.

"It is a little discouraging, to say the least, that we who have spent years of our life giving the best we have in us to build a better way of life for our fellow man, are looked upon as dictators. Men whose motives are looked upon with suspicion and mistrust by those for whom they have worked for so long. I am afraid

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Put On the Heat . . .!



UNION LABEL WEEK—SEPT. 2-8

### Rhodes Reports On Meeting In Mexico

ATLANTA, GA. — Following a recent visit to the organized labor movement in Mexico, Paul C. Sparks, Secretary of the Texas Federation of Labor, issued a summary of the findings of a Special Committee from the Texas Federation of Labor, which traveled to Mexico City to observe negotiations conducted between the Republic of Mexico and the Government of the United States on migratory labor agreements. Accompanying the Texas delegation, J. L. Rhodes, Southern Regional Director of the American Federation of Labor, Atlanta, Georgia, called upon the officials of the Mexican labor movement, leaving with them a copy of the President's Report on Migratory Labor. The combined delegation assured the Mexican labor movement of friendly relationships with the organized labor movement of America. All reports indicate that the Mexican organized labor movement and the American Federation of Labor have a com-

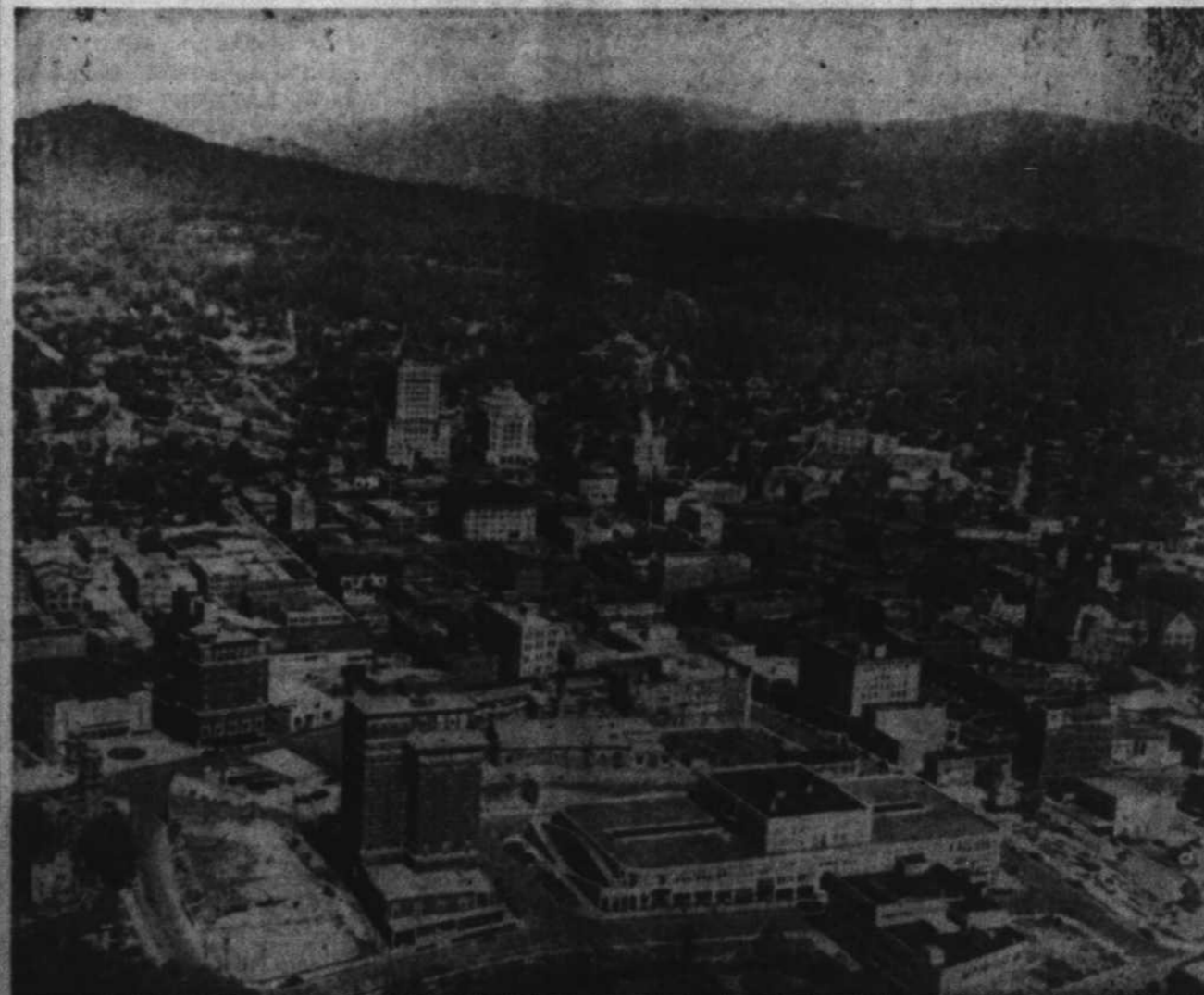


J. L. RHODES,  
Southern AFL Director

mon interest and, therefore, common thinking as to the means of properly regulating and controlling the interchange of labor between the two countries.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C. — 1951



Heat City to 1951 State Federation Convention, which Opens Monday, August 13

### Largest Attendance In Years Expected To Visit Asheville

#### North Carolina Building Trades Report On Meet

Two Charlotte building tradesmen, Phil Hughes and John Lovett, reported upon their return from the Southeastern Building Trades meeting, held in Washington, that the meeting was one which reflects much progress. Mr. Lovett is local business agent for Carpenters local 1469 and is the immediate past president of Charlotte Building Trades Council. Mr. Hughes is the newly elected president of the Charlotte Council.

At the Washington meeting Brother Lovett was elected first vice president of the Southeastern Council and another North Carolina labor leader, Perry M. Taylor of Durham, was elected a vice president at-large for North Carolina.

Principal speakers at the 3-day conference were Richard Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades Department and Joseph D. Keenan, recently elected secretary-treasurer of the department and Director of the AFL Labor's League for Political Education. Also on the program were representatives of the U. S. Labor Department, members of the Wage Stabilization Board and representatives of the NLRB.

International representatives of building trades organizations from most of the 14 state Southeastern conference attended the meeting, and joined in the discussions. Among the representatives were Paul Askew of Goldsboro, International organizer for the Operating Engineers, and Karl Knopf of the Carpenters, Winston-Salem.

John Lovett, business agent of Carpenters Local 1469, Charlotte, was elected first vice-president of the Southeastern organization. P. M. Taylor of Durham, business agent of Local 585, Plumbers and Steamfitters, was elected vice-

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The Forty-fourth Annual Convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor will convene in Asheville Monday, August 13 and delegates from Charlotte and vicinity are readying themselves for the week-end trek to the 'City in the Sky.'

Says The Asheville Labor Advocate:

When Wade A. Elliott, president of the Asheville Central Labor Union, wields the gavel at the City Auditorium Monday morning, August 13, calling the 44th annual convention of the N. C. State Federation of Labor to order, it is expected that one of the largest delegations in the Federation's history will be on hand. Outstanding speakers and officials, both of labor organizations and governmental agencies, will be in attendance to give advice and answer questions concerning the welfare of wage-earners and the citizens generally.

Met Here Many Times

The State Federation of Labor has held many conventions in this city. As the convention date has always been on the Second Monday in August, the good folks from the Piedmont and Eastern Carolina have delighted in coming to Asheville during the hot days of August. Then, too, the beauty of the mountains always appeal to our neighbors and friends in the lowlands and the Piedmont. Hence, when the city of Asheville has been placed in nomination for the next convention it is not on record anywhere that another city was named in opposition.

This Is An Important Meet

Conditions, both at home, over the Nation and over the world, being in such condition as exists today, problems facing the officers and delegates and interested visitors are of such tremendous importance that all who attend will be searching for the best way out, if there is a way.

Commissioner of Labor Forrest H. Shuford, President Anthony Valente of the United Textile Workers of America AFL, Southern Director for the AFL, J. Lew Rhodes, AFL Director of Organization Harry O'Reilly, Secretary-Treasurer Joseph D. Keenan of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL, and probably President Wm. Green of the AFL, will be among the men who are scheduled to address the convention. Officers of International Unions, and representatives of departments of the Federal government are making plans to attend, if possible.

The Opening Hours

Invocation at the opening session will be led by C. D. Hensley, chaplain of the CLU and a member of the Fire Fighters local. He was recently elected president of the State Association of Fire Fighters locals at the Wilmington convention of that association. "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" will be rendered as the opening song. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by First Vice President R. B. Robertson, veteran of World War No. 1, will be recited.

Address of Welcome

Mayor Carl W. Eller will deliver the first address of welcome, and will be followed by City Manager J. Weldon Weir, State Senator Zebulon Weaver, Jr., Representatives Roy A. Taylor, Lamar Gudger and Claude M. Love. For the County, Chairman Coke Candler of the Board of County Commissioners will extend welcome greetings, and Leslie A. Owen, prominent merchant, will welcome the convention on behalf of business. Response to the addresses of welcome will be made by

James F. Barrett, former president of the State Federation of Labor and several times president of the Asheville Central Labor Union.

President Wade A. Elliott then will extend a welcome from the Unions of Asheville, after which he will turn the gavel over to President C. A. Fink, whose opening address will set the stage for the real business of the convention.

Entertainment Features

John E. Jervis and his entertainment committee members have planned a real treat for the delegates and visitors for Tuesday afternoon and evening. First thing on the program of entertainment will be a trip through the big Enka Enka Rayon plant at Enka, with company officials and employes acting as guides through this matchless plant. Later in the afternoon the people will go to Memorial Stadium where, rain or shine, many features will be presented. Of course, the barbecue and trimmings will be on hand, prepared by the employes of the Cafeteria at the Enka plant and served by them, all members of the Enka Rayon Workers Local Union. Working with Chairman Jervis are Miss Nola Ownbey and H. E. Setzer, members of Entertainment Committee.

Negro Delegates

Entertainment for Negro delegates is under supervision of Brother Walter Mapp, of the Enka Rayon Workers local union. He will make announcement at Tuesday's sessions of the plans for his entertainment program. Negroes send large delegations from their local unions to the annual conventions of the Federation. They like to come to Asheville because it was in this city 9 or 10 years ago that they were first placed on the executive board of the State Federation of Labor. The Negroes are a very important part of the state labor movement, and have been for years.

Election and installation of officers for the coming year will take place Wednesday afternoon, at the closing session.

Group Meetings

While the 44th Annual Convention of the State Federation of Labor to be held in Asheville Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 13, 14 and 15, is holding spotlight, there are other meetings preceding the main convention that are most important. These group meetings will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12, preceding the opening of the State Convention on Monday, the 13th.

The State Building Trades Council, the Carpenters State Council, the Plumbers and Fitters State Council, the Painters and Decorators, the IBEW, and other Building Trades Unions will hold special pre-convention meetings. Each group will prepare particular programs in interest of their respective memberships, and present same to the convention of the State Federation of Labor to follow.

One of the most important of these group meetings will be that of United Textile Workers of America AFL. Anthony Valente of the International, Southern Di-

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