

# Some Fed Laws Need Amending

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that too many of us have lost sight of the meaning of that word 'Brotherhood' found in the title of almost all the A. F. L. Unions.

"Those men and women who have been serving as international representatives for any length of time have proven their ability to deal with workers' problems. If we were not able to satisfy workers' grievances and to otherwise effectively represent them we would have been relieved of our duties long ago.

"These representatives have also proven to be men and women whose very souls are aflame with the ideals of the trade union movement. Nothing makes our hearts heavier than to see the working class of people mistreated or imposed upon by an unscrupulous boss or an indifferent government.

"Yes, I will admit that occasionally we find one in our ranks who is a self-seeker and an opportunist, but this is the exception to the rule. It would be as ridiculous for me to say that all international representatives are qualified to sit on the Executive Board as it is to say that they are all disqualified.

"As one of that group who is feared as 'dictators,' I want to assure our members in North Carolina and elsewhere that the desire to serve is much stronger in a good representative than the desire to dictate!

"The stronger part cannot work for our members in North Carolina unless a change is made in the present Constitution and By-Laws. I intend to lend my support to any honorable move that will so amend the Constitution at the Asheville Convention.

"It is little short of a crime to say to a faithful servant of many years: 'Yes, you may continue to work for me, but not in a position of trust, because I know, of servants who cannot be trusted.'

"Fraternally,  
"LEWIS E. PRICE,"

### Charlotte Labor Journal Disagrees

Although The Charlotte Labor Journal does not agree with the argument Brother Gillespie outlines in his article The Journal, out of fairness to him, reproduces the letter he addressed to the editor of the Durham Labor Journal and which appeared in that newspaper on the editorial page of the June 28th issue. It follows:

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

"Dear Editor:

"Last summer at the North Carolina Federation of Labor Convention, held at Winston-Salem, an amendment was submitted for Section I, Article 5, of our constitution. The amendment was to strike out this sentence: 'No person holding a full time salaried position outside the jurisdiction of his or her own Local Union shall be eligible to office or retain same on the Executive Board. And to substitute the following: No person shall be eligible to be elected to or retain office on the Executive Board of this body unless he or she is an active member of the American Federation of Labor, either in following his or her trade, or employed within the framework of the American Federation of Labor.

"Please consider this amendment, which was not adopted, very carefully. You will surely realize if such an amendment were to be adopted, it would completely destroy the very purpose of our State organization. It would leave the offices for leadership wide open for dictatorship. The members of Local Unions and the general delegates to conventions would have little chance to become officers of the Federation or be allowed to say little concerning its operation. This law was put in our constitution for that very purpose. That democracy may prevail. Surely, we must not take drastic actions that would destroy something that has cost us many years of hard work and the actual blood of many human lives to attain. If such an amendment should be adopted, which I predict will not be so, then under such an amended law a man like Robt. Taft of Ohio, could come down and hold office, if he was a union member. You can see why well thinking delegates

fought so hard to defend our constitution last summer and since.

"Mr. E. R. 'Sparkey' Williamson is well known in Reidsville, respected and liked. He is an honorable citizen, progressive, and has meant much to the people of Durham. I for one am sorry that he did not come under the laws of our constitution as a qualified candidate. The word 'disqualification' is an ugly word, but a necessary one. But, I could not then—I could not now—nor can the delegates of the Reidsville District agree to, or believe in such an amendment to our constitution.

"A person should be eligible according to the laws. We should not change laws so that a person or persons might be eligible. No one has ever to my knowledge objected to any candidate for office who has proven his eligibility according to our constitutional laws. The original intent and purpose of this law was good and it still is a good law now. No one should object to competition—truly that brings out the best. That is democracy. This is America—but we must protect those things—and there must be governing laws.

"I am interested in progressive movements—but I am also interested in the preservation and development of our Federation in a substantial and concrete way. I speak of our constitution and not of Mr. Williamson. I have no doubt about his capability. Perhaps it is regrettable that this law includes him.

"It isn't necessary that one must be the President or any other of the offices to promote progressive movements for the betterment of our Federation and people. Last summer I had a lot of respect for Mr. Williamson and still do. He acted like a gentleman throughout the convention. I can not say the same of his supporters or for some of his opposers. We prayed to God for guidance—then the moment we raised our heads—we acted like mad-men, cursing, raving, making personal remarks, insulting. It looks as if we, as men, could meet and reason things out together. No wonder a lot of people now hesitate in joining our unions.

"I am not chiefly concerned with personalities as I am to uphold and defend the laws of our constitution. If we do that—we need not worry about our leadership—it will be good.

"I trust that the Editor will publish this letter in the next issue of the Durham Labor Journal. I feel I know him well enough to believe he will, in order that the facts may be studied and realized from both sides of this issue.

"In last week's issue a suggestion was made that there may be added to the amendment—'Within the confines of North Carolina.' But the amendment in its entirety is all wrong to my opinion.

"Respectfully submitted,  
"JAMES GILLESPIE, JR.,  
"Vice-President,  
"N. C. Federation of Labor  
"Reidsville District."

### Editor Williamson's Stand

Editorializing on the foregoing letters of Mr. Price and Mr. Gillespie, E. R. Williamson, Durham Labor Journal editor, very aptly had the following to say:

"The letter appearing on this page of former N. C. Federation of Labor Vice President Lewis E. Price, international representative of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, brings to our attention strongly the fact that exclusion of international representatives and organizers from rights enjoyed by other delegates to a convention of the State AFL organization will result in unjust penalties for union leaders.

"Opponents of an amendment to Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State Federation at last year's convention plainly stated that the last sentence in the Section had been placed in the constitution some years ago in order to prevent international representatives and organizers from holding office on the executive board of the N. C. Federation of Labor. Cries of possible 'dictatorship' were raised during the floor fight on the proposed amendment.

"This newspaper again reiterates, in support of a statement by Mr. Price, that it is unthinkable

that the scores of delegates at a convention of the State AFL body would be so uninformed and weak-kneed as to allow a few leaders to dictate to the organization.

"It goes without saying that qualifications for leadership are essential for election to office in any organization worth its salt. Then who among us have shown more qualifications to lead than those men who have been chosen from the ranks of their local unions to represent their international unions in the field of organization? These men have left their every day jobs to go out into the field to fight for the principles of organized labor and for conditions necessary for a decent standard of living for all organized workers.

"International representatives leave their homes and loved ones for long periods in the performance of their duties in assisting all local unions with their problems of grievance and organization. They are regularly in touch with management, and theirs is an important job of public relations and arbitration.

"In the performance of their duties international representatives and organizers cannot fail to gain valuable experience which will qualify them to lead and instruct their fellow union members for the continuing successful fight of labor to hold present gains and

strive for more in the never-ending battle against those who would strangle the labor movement.

"This editorial should not be taken as a suggestion or demand for the election of international representatives and organizers to the executive board of the North Carolina Federation of Labor. It is meant only as an appeal to the members of the organization to refrain from depriving these leaders of the rights and privileges accorded to all other delegates to a convention of the Federation. It is the belief of this paper that no person should be seated as a delegate to a convention of the NCFL who cannot be assured these rights.

"In closing, let's look at the record; international representatives have been elected to the executive board of the N. C. Federation of Labor in the past, without any voice being raised about the restrictions of Article 5, Section 1 of the organization constitution. In the case of Lewis Price, he was elected in 1949 and re-elected in 1950, while not even a delegate to the convention at which he was returned to office, a clear violation of another provision of the constitution which provides that, to be elected to office, a member must be a delegate to the convention at which the election takes place!

"Must we believe that Article 5, Section 1 was placed in the constitution for use in protecting certain officeholders when the need arises?"

"It is the fervent hope of this writer that the 1951 convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor, in Asheville next month, will strike from its constitution this discriminatory ruling against clearly qualified leaders of the AFL movement in North Carolina. In this manner can be removed the 'bottleneck for leadership' which now plagues this great organization!"

### TEXAS INDEPENDENT FISHERMAN'S UNIONS JOIN AFL

Galveston, Tex.—A major accomplishment of affiliating with the American Federation of Labor a large group of workers, has been made at Galveston, Texas, in the affiliation of several thousands of fisherman with the Seafarers International Union of North America.

Organizer J. W. Park, of the American Federation of Labor Staff, in company with Mr. Urban Bosarge representing the SIU, accomplished the affiliation on July 31, when a charter was ordered from the International Union and a complete change-over in affiliation from that of an Independent Union status to a bona fide A. F. of L. Union was made.

Close association with the Rep-

resentatives of the A. F. of L. in the Texas district has been maintained for about 1 1/2 years during which time talks and conferences have been held and repeated continually during that time. The affiliation of the Texas Fishermen's Association with the SIU brings into the A. F. of L. the second large group of fishermen in the Gulf Coast area, headed up at Biloxi, Mississippi, made an affiliation with the A. F. of L. Information received in the Atlanta office indicating a great deal of interest among the fishermen in the Louisiana Gulf Coast area is rampant and an affiliation is expected in that area at an early date.

Close co-operation between the Galveston labor movement and the movement along the Gulf Coast area of Texas has been very valuable in bringing about the affiliation of the Texas group. The newly chartered organization will extend both east and west from Galveston including the ports of Sabine, Freeport, Palacios, Aransas Pass, Port Isabel, Rockport, Brownsville, Port O'Connor, Matagorda, Seadrift and others along the Coast.

"The doc says I've been working too hard lately—says I need a little sun and air."

"But Honey, didn't you tell him we can't afford one yet?"

### BOTTLE BLOWERS WIN ELECTION

Laurens, S. C.—The Glass Bottle Blowers Association of the United States and Canada recently won an election among the employees at the Laurens Glass Works, Inc., Laurens, S. C. Of the 319 miscellaneous employees eligible to vote in the election, 213 voted for the Glass Bottle Blowers Association with 79 voting for the Union.

Representatives William Lewis and John Hammel of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association were assisted by Organizer John A. Hawkins of the Southern Staff of the American Federation of Labor in this campaign.

### MARBLE WORKERS VOTE FOR UNION

Knoxville, Tenn.—Organizer Kenneth Scott, of the Southern Staff of the American Federation of Labor, reports the winning of an National Labor Relations Board election among the employees of the Gray Knox Marble Company, Knoxville, Tenn., by the International Association of Marble, Slate and Stone Polishers, Rubbers and Sawyers, Tile and Marble Setters Helpers and Terrazzo Helpers.

Buy Union and fight the aggressors who would destroy American labor standards.

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You may still redeem any Series E Bond at any time after you've owned it for sixty days. (The tables on this page show what you can get for it.) But, unless you really need the cash you're much better off to hold your bonds; they are a paying method of saving. Bonds are safer than cash! Cash is too easily spent on nonessential things. And if you lose or accidentally destroy it, you're out that much money. But when you have cash in Defense Bonds, you're more apt

to hold on to it. And if your bonds are lost or destroyed, the Treasury will replace them for you at no cost or loss to you.



The cash you have in bond savings is safe and solid; and it's steadily growing toward a sum big enough to buy something really worth while when the proper time comes—a home, a business, a retirement fund, an education for your children.

So if you have bonds coming due, take advantage of this new offer of your government—just sit back and let them go on making money. Meanwhile keep adding to your savings by buying more United States Defense Bonds regularly—through the Payroll Savings Plan where you work or the Bond-A-Month Plan where you bank.

Here's how Series E Defense Bonds earn the first 10 years

Maturity value	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
Issue price	18.75	37.50	75.00
Period after issue date	Redemption values during each year		
1 year	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$75.00
2 years	19.00	38.00	76.00
3 years	19.25	38.50	77.00
4 years	19.50	39.00	78.00
5 years	19.75	39.50	79.00
6 years	20.00	40.00	80.00
7 years	20.25	40.50	81.00
8 years	20.50	41.00	82.00
9 years	20.75	41.50	83.00
10 years	21.00	42.00	84.00
Maturity value (10 years from issue date)	25.00	50.00	100.00

Now look how your maturing bonds go on earning under the new law!

Original maturity (or face) value	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Issue price	18.75	37.50	75.00	150.00	375.00	750.00
Period after issue date	Redemption values during each year					
11 years	\$25.31	\$50.62	\$101.25	\$202.50	\$506.25	\$1,012.50
12 years	25.94	51.87	103.75	207.50	518.75	1,037.50
13 years	26.56	53.12	106.25	212.50	531.25	1,062.50
14 years	27.19	54.37	108.75	217.50	543.75	1,087.50
15 years	27.81	55.62	111.25	222.50	556.25	1,112.50
16 years	28.44	56.87	113.75	227.50	568.75	1,137.50
17 years	29.06	58.12	116.25	232.50	581.25	1,162.50
18 years	29.69	59.37	118.75	237.50	593.75	1,187.50
19 years	30.31	60.62	121.25	242.50	606.25	1,212.50
20 years	30.94	61.87	123.75	247.50	618.75	1,237.50
Extended maturity value (20 years from issue date)	33.33	66.67	133.33	266.67	666.67	1,333.33

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