



CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL



AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

VOL. XXI: NO. 27

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

Soviet May Threaten A War To Scare Germans Out Of Ike's Army

The Journal's Washington correspondent is in Europe where he will visit eight of the member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty organizations.

By EDWARD H. SIMS
(Special Correspondent of The Charlotte Labor Journal, Writing From Europe.)

BOON, Germany — Some German officials in Bonn, and some American, expect the Russians to make one last, bombastic effort to frighten Germans away from rearmament and military alignment with countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the next few months. This belief is widespread among those who realize the serious implications to Russia of German troop contributions to a NATO army.

The Soviet Union cannot allow Germany to strengthen the NATO army enough to prevent a successful campaign by Soviet armies through western Europe — if it plans eventually to overrun Europe. While the Allies were building strength before now, the prospect of German and French rearmament combined, backed by increased U. S. and British troop strength and air support, is sufficiently impressive, many officials believe, to force Russian action now in an effort to keep German units out of the NATO army.

In Bonn, the impression seems rather general that it is only a matter of ten or twelve months, more or less, until German units are integrated into a NATO army. Most of that time will be required to build effective units. If the German effort is to be stopped it must be stopped in the near future, before it is started, thus the prospect of a Russian campaign of terror and pressure to frighten citizens of the Federal Republic away from military cooperation with the West.

A strong suspicion among other officials at Bonn is that the Russians are contemplating a major war scare for Europe, as the only way to keep western Germany out of General Dwight Eisenhower's military command. This suspicion is supported by recent Red complaints to several European countries—charges of treaty violations—and public utterances by Red officials that Russia would not stand by idly and watch Germany rearm. This latter tune is thought intended to frighten Germans away from military cooperation with the West, less such action ignites World War II and an invasion of West Germany.

And, indeed, if the Russians can convince the West Germans that military co-operation with General Eisenhower's forces means war, with the resultant Red advance into free Germany, they might succeed in persuading them to stay out of such a joint defense effort. To frighten West Germans sufficiently to keep them out of the NATO's military command, the Soviet Union will probably have to produce a genuine war scare over Europe.

It could be brought about by Russian charges that German remilitarization was contrary to agreements between Russia and the Allies of World War II, and demands that it be halted. These demands could coincide with increased pressure everywhere in Europe and bombastic statements from Red leaders that the West is stirring up war with its efforts to rearm Germany.

Whether the Russian effort will succeed, if tried, is the big question—though many seem to think it can be successfully withstood. They believe a war scare if touched off, would be all bluff on the part of the Reds. Yet the period of bluff, or tension, could be a dangerous period for the Allies, especially since their combined strength in Germany, and even in France, is not yet formidable by any means. Therefore, those who expect a Soviet-generated war scare look forward to three or possibly four electric months in Europe this fall and winter.

Bust Of Green Presented AFL

FEDERATION CHIEF PRAISED AS GREAT MAN IN OWN RIGHT.

NEW YORK CITY (ILNS).—Tribute to William Green as a great man in his own right, not merely as the successor of Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor, featured presentation of a bust of Green to the federation by the Jewish Labor Committee.

Presentation ceremonies were held at the annual assembly of the committee in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In addition to Green, speakers included Vice President Alben W. Barkley, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer; David Dubinsky, president, International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and Adolph Held, national chairman, Jewish Labor Committee.

Secretary Tobin praised the Jewish Labor Committee for "its wisdom and foresight in transmitting to posterity in a work of art the familiar, well-loved features of William Green."

Sees AFL Green's Monument "A hundred years from now," he said, "the school children of this country will be reading about William Green in their history books and in other texts where the lives of great Americans are recorded. And the bust that will be unveiled here today will convey to them something of the air and the spirit of the man."

"In a larger sense, however, the bust of William Green will not be conveyed to posterity in bronze or in marble or even in the printed word. It will be conveyed in the living organization he helped to build and to shape."

"The personality and the character and the philosophy and the spirit of William Green have been built into the very structure of the American Federation of Labor. That organization will always bear his imprint. That organization is William Green's monument. As long as the American Federation of Labor lives, the heritage of William Green will live with it."

Tobin went on to say that it seemed to him that Green had been pictured "too often in the legendary mantle" of Samuel Gompers. "After 27 years as president of the AFL, William Green is entitled to his own mantle," he continued. "His greatness is his own, not someone else's."

"It's true, of course, that Green has shared the philosophy and carried on the heritage of the great founder of the American Federation of Labor. But he did more than carry it on. He expanded it. He improved it. He adjusted it to meet problems and situations that were undreamed of in Gompers' day. He imparted to it the intensity of his own spirit. It was his task to lead the American Federation of Labor over strange and uncharted terrain. Yes, the voice of Gompers still rang in his ears. But the decision was William Green's. William Green chose the course. William Green led the way. William Green gave heart and courage to the marchers when the going got rough."

Cites AFL Growth

"Under his leadership, the federation grew from 3 million to 8 million members. He kept it secure and strengthened it during a terrible depression and a terrible war. He made it an instrument for service to his country. And now, under his leadership, the federation is helping to rally the forces of free labor all over the world as a mighty weapon in the struggle against communism. These are William Green's accomplishments. This is the heritage of William Green."

Vice President Barkley praised (Continued On Page 4)



ECONOMIC CONTROLS MUST REMAIN

"Barring an all-out war," declared Eric Johnston, director of the Economic Stabilization Agency, "the United States will have productive capacity to supply both civilian and military needs within two years."

In the meantime, warned Mr. Johnston, "the crest of inflation is some distance away" but there are mounting pressures to eliminate controls. Until the desired productivity is available, he maintains that economic controls must not be weakened.

Mr. Johnston points out that the national income next year will be greater by some forty billion dollars than last year. Defense spending, he points out, however, will jump to the rate of sixty-five billion dollars annually, compared with only thirteen billion in the year before Korea. These factors, he adds, mean increased inflationary pressures.

One of the bad effects of inflation in this country, with marked increases in the prices of goods, is the dependence of our allies and friendly nations upon us for consumer and capital goods, as well as the hardware of war. The price in this country "tends to become the world price for many commodities." Obviously, the higher our prices go, the less our allies can purchase and the more difficult it will be for them to rearm and make their full contribution to the military strength that is necessary for the security of the free world.

ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS HERE AND IN RUSSIA

"Another atomic explosion" is reported inside the Soviet Union on the same day that the Atomic Energy Commission's test of a tactical in the Nevada desert resulted in only a minor detonation.

The two incidents set off speculation. It was noted that the Russian explosion is not described as an "atomic bomb" and this led to the belief that it might involve the testing of atomic artillery shells. It is recalled that Prime Minister Joseph Stalin told newspapermen on October 6th that there would be "tests on atomic bombs of various calibers" in the future.

While no official report has come from the experiment in Nevada, it is noted that the "blast" appeared as a brief and small flicker of light to observers on mountainsides overlooking the area. It involves, in the opinion of reporters, only a few tons of the explosive. This compares with the Hiroshima atomic bomb, which was equivalent to twenty thousand tons of T. N. T.

There is little to be gained by the average person in attempting to keep up with the relative progress of atomic research in the United States and Russia. The presumption that this nation is far ahead of the Russians seems to be well-founded. Certainly, we have made more experiments than the Russians in connection with atomic explosions. Until something official comes along, we must rest on the assumption that our scientists and officials understand the situation. Disclosure of all details to the public would also give information to the Russians.

SUPREME COURT REVERSES ITSELF

Reversing itself after two weeks, the United States Supreme Court has granted a hearing to the six attorneys adjudged guilty of contempt of court by Judge Harold R. Medina for their conduct during the 1949 conspiracy trial of eleven Communist Party leaders.

The action of Judge Medina in sentencing the attorneys for contempt of court is thoroughly supported by the record of the case. During the nine-months trial, there were, according to Judge Medina, more than forty different instances of criminal contempt of court.

The issue before the Supreme Court, however, was not whether the lawyers were guilty of contempt of court. It was asked to determine whether a judge had the authority to make a summary determination of contempt and impose sentence himself, or whether the action should have been taken to another judge, after notice, hearing and

an opportunity for defense had been given the accused.

This issue goes to the essence of our judicial procedure which, in almost every instance, provides for such notice, hearing and an opportunity for defense. A trial for contempt of court is one of the exceptions. This right has been assumed by jurists for the protection of the orderly processes of their courts. It can only be sustained if it is necessary to sound administration of justice.

It is very rare when a lawyer, or an individual, is called upon to face a contempt of court charge. When it occurs, the person involved stands accused by the judge, who sits in judgment upon him. It is rare that any testimony is taken in cases where the contempt is alleged to have occurred in the presence of the judge himself.

Judge Medina, in his conduct of the famous trial, exhibited a patience that was unusual. Despite the attempts of the lawyers for the Communists to upset his judicial temperament, he maintained his composure. He declined to punish them for contempt during the trial, fearing that such action might influence the jury in determining the guilt or innocence of the Communist party leaders. Consequently, he waited until the long trial was over and then summoned the lawyers to the bench, where he found them guilty and imposed jail sentences.

RUSSIAN MILITARISM, NOT COMMUNISM THREAT

In opening the 1951 session of the United Nations General Assembly, now being held in Paris, Secretary-General Trygve Lie said that the organization has maintained its efforts "to establish harmony or at least some form of peaceful co-existence between the conflicting interests and different ideologies in the world."

There is only one reason why "peaceful co-existence" is impossible. That is, the apparent willingness of some of the great powers to use military power to compel other people to accept ideologies.

The world is composed of people who have widely different religious beliefs. The Christian religion is not a menace to the peace of the world or the development of other peoples because Christians do not advocate the use of force to compel people to become Christians. The same observation applies to the Mohammedans, the Confucianists and those who belong to other religious orders.

In the economic world, there is a conflict between the capitalism of the Western nations and the communism of Soviet Russia. This conflict would not imperil the peace of the world if neither the capitalistic countries nor the communistic countries attempted to compel other people to accept their views through the use of military power. The Soviet Union has demonstrated a willingness to use military force to subjugate neighboring countries and to compel the populations of these countries to accept communist ideologies.

The peace of the world is threatened not by a conflict of ideals or systems, but by the danger of aggression. The Russians are entitled to be Communists if they see fit to permanently accept the economic principles that go with the system. As Communists, they would be no danger to the other peoples of the world except for the fact that the leaders of the Communist regime are ready to use force to compel other peoples to accept their economic theories and to suppress any freedom of thought that causes disagreement.

We think it is important for the people of the United States to understand that the danger to the peace of the world stems from militarism rather than from any other ism. Faced with this threat, the United States has taken the lead in rearming the free peoples of the world, not for the purpose of compelling Communist-inclined nations to become capitalistic, but for the purpose of preventing the Communists from regaining the free world, obliterating their freedoms and liberties and compelling them to go step with the Communists.

France Making Progress Rebuilding Her Defense

By EDWARD H. SIMS
(Special Correspondent of The Charlotte Labor Journal, Writing From Europe.)

PARIS, France — The Fourth French Republic, which lost 600,000 men in the last war, and which is generally considered the key to defense of western Europe, is making encouraging progress toward re-establishing itself as one of the world's great military powers.

Reporters visiting France for the specific purpose of measuring recovery and rearmament programs in various European countries saw detailed and secret reports on French military progress in recent days—and though there are bottlenecks, the French must be rated on the long road to recovery.

Highlight of the American group's stop over in Paris was a meeting with Defense Minister Georges Bidault. The group also talked at length with French CA head Paul Porter, members of the Joint American Military Advisory Group, and members of the French Team on Mutual Security Act aid. The impressions gained were not all good. For instance, modern air fields are badly needed in France, and it will probably take a year to construct them.

But for every discouraging fact there were encouraging ones. The major gain in the last two years might be said to be one in morale and faith. And in some cases where progress seems discouraging, there are pretty good reasons for the bottleneck. Mr. Bidault explained French difficulties in airfield construction, in part, by pointing out that the fields are to be NATO fields, some at least. This means members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would use the fields. Bidault — aware of the financial strain France is undergoing as a result of the war in Indo-China — believes NATO powers should contribute to construction of these fields, since they are not one hundred per cent French airfields.

Only a month ago, at Ottawa, agreement was reached on this point, and since that agreement, on cost-contributions, progress has been rapid.

Major General George J. Richards, of the French Team on U. S. aid, explained French capabilities to reporters at the American Embassy a day or two ago. While Richards' preparedness charts were off the record, reporters who left that briefing realize that France today—probably for the first time in ten years—has a feasible plan, a mobilization program that could throw reserves into the lines much quicker than in 1940, and several good divisions.

It is true that a great part of the French regular army is now fighting the Communists in Indo-China, but nevertheless, the French expect to have the ten divisions they pledged NATO by the end of the year—and perhaps more. The country's shortage in heavy military weapons is being alleviated by the U. S. shipments of heavy military equipment and vehicles. And most American military observers feel that French divisions today would give a better account of themselves than in 1940. For one thing, U. S. military advisers are working closely with the French, and instructing them in the use of modern heavy weapons.

Another factor is the intense desire of the average Frenchman to regain for his homeland a respected place in world councils. As in 1914, the French are in a "comeback" spirit, which could be quite important in a new war.

The Communist threat is a subject reporters heard much about. The encouraging thing is that this threat has steadily declined for three years. Communist seats in the Chamber of Deputies declined in the recent elections from 180 to 101. And the military services have attempted to weed every Communist sympa-

thizer out of the armed forces—as a security measure.

In France this involves some job, since there are about five million citizens who vote Communist, but the job is being done, nevertheless.

Perhaps the biggest threat to France today is the declining value of the French franc. While the official exchange rate is 350 francs to one dollar, black market swaps on the streets of Paris these days operate on a 400-or-450-to-one ratio.

The franc is under great pressure for several reasons. First the French are spending a million francs a day to maintain their war against Communists in Indo-China. Second, the French budget is much higher this year than last, now being programmed at an estimated 10 1-2 billion dollars. Of this about 2.6 billions is scheduled for the rearmament program. Third, rising prices in many areas where France buys goods have increased faster than the rise in prices of the goods France exports—this adds to the draining away of dollars and unbalances French trade.

Thus present times are not easy ones for France, but the country is making a start on what will probably have to be a long comeback. The most encouraging factor in the picture is the average enthusiasm with which the Frenchmen view his country's attempted resurgence—the will seems to be there.

Building Trades Hit Truman On Labor

Washington, D. C. (ILNS). In an attack on the Democratic administration's labor record, the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department monthly bulletin suggested that the best way to get the Taft-Hartley Act repealed eventually is to vote Republican next year.

The bulletin charged that President Truman has a "terrible labor record" and does not really want the T-H law repealed despite his messages to Congress asking repeal. Richard J. Gray is president of the department and its secretary is Joseph D. Keenan, until recently director of Labor's League for Political Education.

The unsigned bulletin issued by the department leadership took direct issue with the political axiom that "labor can't bolt the Democratic party because it has nowhere else to go."

It said union members should not "delude" themselves into thinking that a Republican administration would repeal the Taft-Hartley law. But it said there is a "very meritorious" argument in favor of labor supporting the Republicans in 1952:

"It would force the Democrats to respect us and after 4 years we would then be in a very advantageous position to obtain our demands."

If the Democrats are returned to power with labor support in 1952, the bulletin said, it may take 12 years to get the Taft-Hartley law repealed — 4 more Democratic years, followed by 4 to 8 years of Republican rule.

The bulletin noted—and rejected—alternative course of labor political action such as forming an independent labor party and voting a split ticket aimed at "electing our friends and defeating our enemies." It said both were impractical.

Accusing the administration of being "two-sided" about labor, the bulletin said Truman sent up his request for Taft-Hartley repeal at the same time that he sought passage of civil rights law. "Neither was seriously pushed," the bulletin said. "It appears that the administration leaders knew beforehand that neither law would be acted upon."

New York ITU Honors Older Members

NEW YORK CITY (ILNS).—

More than 200 "real old timers" in the International Typographical Union's Local No. 6 were honored in ceremonies here for 50- and 60-year membership. One of those honored—Julius Gottlieb—has been a member 75 years.

The grand total membership represented in the group receiving emblems amounts to some 12,000 years, "Big 6" President Laur-

ence H. Victory said. Fifty-year period of recorded history. emblems were awarded to 109 members, and 108 others received 60-year emblems.

Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright, who participated in the ceremonies, said, "this represents a lot of experience—a lot of devotion—a lot of sacrifice."

Roll it back over the years, he said, and it extends beyond the

"Add up the monuments built over that period of warriors and rulers—the pyramids, the statues, the cities, and the palaces—and they are nothing compared to the edifice erected by these our elder brothers."

"You 50- and 60-year men have builded not in stone or metal. You have molded a living organi-

(Continued On Page 4)