



CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL



AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

VOLUME XXI, NO. 31

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Per Year

No Need To Relax Labor Standards, Say Officials

SAFEGUARDS HELD VITAL TO DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE

Washington, D. C. (ILNS).

There is no necessity for relaxing labor standards now, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin declared in a policy statement opposing lowering of hour, safety, health and other standards.

"The mobilization authorities agree that the present situation does not require relaxation of existing labor standards except in unusual and individual cases — and then only on a temporary basis," Tobin said.

"Labor legislation which safeguards the health and welfare of workers is a vital part of the democracy we are defending. The application of the policy here recommended will go a long way to insure maximum production without needless waste of manpower and materials, and to maintain a healthy, efficient and dynamic labor force."

The Labor Department's statement, issued in response to requests from state labor administrators for guidance on national policy, was approved by the National Labor-Management Manpower Policy Committee and the Office of Defense Mobilization's Committee on Manpower Policy. The Labor-Management Manpower Policy Committee is made up of top representatives of organized labor and management, and the ODM policy committee is composed of the federal mobilization agencies concerned with manpower problems, including Defense and Labor Departments and the Defense Production Administration.

Anticipating that requests will be made for relaxing state laws and regulations on hours of work on emergency production, the policy statement said variations will be necessary "only in states with relatively high standards which are not sufficiently flexible to meet emergency needs." It warned that longer hours tend to increase accident frequency, and opposed any relaxation of industrial health and safety standards and regulations. Nor should there be any relaxation relating to work by minors under 18, or in the laws establishing minimum wages and regulating industrial homework, it added.

Where necessary to provide flexibility in emergencies, the policy statement said, states should consider stand-by legislation authorizing the state labor department to take care of production bottlenecks under specific standards. Such standards recommended by the statement include:

"Industry-wide exemptions should be avoided. Requests for exemption should be granted only upon a clear demonstration of need for critical defense production, after investigation of the facts and only for a specified time, with provision for periodic review by the state labor department for purpose of termination or renewal. Before a request is granted, employers should be urged to consider alternate methods of operation that might eliminate the needs for relaxation of standards. Additional shifts are to be preferred to the lengthening of hours of work.

"At this stage of the emergency the employment of women on the third shift does not appear necessary, and, in view of their family responsibilities, their employment on the third shift or on seven days a week should be discouraged."

GOD NOT INDIFFERENT

Bishop E. E. Hess

It sometimes looks to our dim eyes as if God had forgotten to be just, but He never forgets. For reasons of His own He often allows to wicked men ample scope for the development of their wickedness. But this delay is only for a season. It will end by and by.

Priests Discuss Labor Relations

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 30.

—South Carolina Catholic priests this week gathered in three cities to prepare a definite plan to educate their parishioners about the rights of labor organization, the dangers of the Dixiecrats' "States Rights" movement and the morals of social justice.

The pastors bemoaned the ignorance of the Catholic laity as to the teaching of the Popes and Bishops on labor relations. A well laid out program to acquaint Catholic workers and employers alike with their Church's moral teaching on the duty of paying annual, living and saving, family wages and the equal duty of recognizing and dealing fairly with unions was discussed.

The three special meetings for the clergy were under auspices of Bishop John J. Russell of Charleston. They were held in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston on Nov. 26, 27 and 28. The institutes were conducted by the Catholic Committee of the South, regional organization of priests and laity working in the field of social and racial justice.

Very Rev. Maurice V. Shean of Rock Hill, S. C., and Rev. George Higgins of Washington, D. C., were among the priests running the one-day educational institutes for their fellow clergymen. Father Shean is general chairman of the Catholic Committee of the South and Father Higgins is with the social action department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The growth of industries in the South Father Shean called a "backhanded slap in the face to those of us who live here" because it is primarily caused by corporations in search of what "is commonly called cheap labor," workers unprotected by any union organization.

"The influence of the basic un-Christian thinking that to the favored of God go the wealth of the world is too evident in the conversations and actions of the much of the South," he said. "In spite of the many good people of the region and its so-called Christian tradition, there are many ideas and activities of the South that are decidedly influenced by paganism."

The prime example he gave was the present states rights movement which he said seemed to be "a camouflage for retaining the present status quo in human relations."

After describing the godlessness of Southern industry, the CCS chairman said: "Any system that denies to men their fundamental rights of manhood, creative ability and organization needs Christianization badly."

BARBECUE PLANNED

A barbecue to benefit the boy scout building fund will be given December 15th, from 12 noon until 9 P. M. by the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church at the boy scout building. Located opposite the Fairgrounds on Sugaw Creek Road.

The barbecue to be prepared by J. W. Oehler, Jr., of Mallard Creek and will be served rain or shine as there will be ample eating space inside and large parking area outside.

Sandwiches and soft drinks for the children and plates prepared to take home, consisting of a complete meal for \$1.25.

With Army and Navy brass and some businessmen considering the possibility of space travel, Oscar Schachter, deputy director of the United Nations legal department, recently came out with: "What happens if space ship men occupy the moon? Does the moon become the property of the country involved, as newly discovered continents were claimed centuries ago?" Mr. Schachter doesn't know, but inclines to oppose such colonization.



TOUGHER DRAFT POLICIES IN 1952

Recent military policy decisions in Washington are to mean a much tougher draft program for young men between the ages of 19 and 25 in 1952. The new draft policies will go into effect in January, according to present plans, and will affect many farm workers, married men, essential workers, college boys, and others—who heretofore have been comparatively safe.

There has always been considerable disagreement within the United States as to who should be exempt from draft laws. Many of our higher educators, and some draft officials, have favored exempting students studying sciences, medicine and other special courses, in which fields there are shortages of professional talent.

On the other hand there has always been a certain amount of criticism of this policy—some people arguing that those boys who are fortunate enough to be in medical school for one example, should not be excluded from the ordeal of carrying a rifle, and perhaps in Korea, just because they happen to be in medical school. Every American boy has the same chance of living or dying, defending his country, these people say, regardless of other circumstances.

Those defending exemption policies say the country needs more scientists, doctors, etc.—and that these boys can serve their country best by following their studies and applying themselves to his special field.

The recent military decision to toughen draft policies was not made primarily as a result of criticism of current draft policies but because another half million men are needed in the armed forces and this seemed to be the best way of getting them. In the next 18 months the armed services hope to build up a strength of about four million men, and women.

The decision to change the policy is interesting in the light of policies recently adopted in European countries, which are expected to be our allies, in a future war. France, for example, has a draft law requiring every able-bodied youth—who has not had two brothers killed in action—to serve his time in the military service. Other European countries have long followed this policy—under which all physically-fit young men serve their time. In these countries such draft laws are defended as democratic.

Whether U. S. draft policies have been democratic or not, come January, many who have been exempt will have to don uniforms and carry a rifle.

TAXES NOW TAKE \$1 OF EACH \$3.40

New federal tax increases will bring the toll out of every dollar earned to a higher level than in 1945—the peak tax-spending year of World War II. The toll, federal, state and local, in 1952, is expected to be \$1 out of every \$3.40 earned. In 1945 it was just a penny less. But in 1950 it was only \$1 in each \$4—still a high rate.

In 1941 the toll was \$1 out of every \$5. Thus the taxpayer today is more heavily taxed than ever before in U. S. history. The main question is — where do we go from here. The answer will certainly have a bearing on the 1952 elections.

AMERICANS EATING LESS

The Department of Agriculture estimates that per capita meat consumption this year will be the smallest in eight years. After increasing steadily in recent years, high prices encountered by housewives this year have forced consumption down sharply.

The average American family now spends almost 20 per cent of its income, after tax-

es, for food. This figure is higher than in the past for two reasons. First, the cost of food has risen more rapidly than the cost of other goods. Second, the average American family is now buying a greater per capita quantity of food than it was only 10 or 15 years ago.

Food which cost \$118 in the pre-war of 1935-39 now costs almost \$275. Compared to the same 1935-39 period, the average family is buying eleven per cent more food today.

Already strained by large food purchases, at high prices, the average family's food budget could not stand the sharply-increased price of meat this year and thus the decline in consumption, which is expected to be followed by some decline in prices.

A LONG WAIT FOR COLOR TV

The decision of the Federal Communications Commission to halt expansion of the color television industry may mean better color television for future buyers.

The FCC's decision, some months ago, to let manufacturers go ahead with production of the CBS color system, was a temporary expedient at best, in that even CBS admitted its system would probably some day be changed to an electronic system.

As approved, it was a mechanical system, with a spinning color wheel as the key device in operation. That wheel had to be twice the size of the picture, in diameter, and naturally this posed a major problem in construction of 20 and 30-inch screens.

If an electronic system, as one other of major companies advanced to the FCC in hearings, could produce a picture as clear in detail as the CBS-system picture was, it would be the logical choice, since this system involves no color wheels, but electronic tubes. Using this system there are fewer limitations on the size of TV screens. RCA claims today to have perfected its electronic system to a quality comparable to the approved CBS system. And CBS officials have admitted electronic color tubes are the long-term answer to the problem.

It is quite probable—since the FCC has not banned the manufacture of these tubes and other equipment for experimental purposes—that by the time the industry is allowed to go ahead with mass production of color TV sets again, a better, and permanent, color transmission and reception system will have been perfected.

BARKLEY READY TO RUN AGAIN?

In all the speculation over President Truman, General Eisenhower, and others—as possible presidential candidates in 1952—there has been little talk about the number two spot on the two major party tickets.

In Washington there is a growing belief that Governor Earl Warren might be in a good spot for the second-place nomination on the Republican ticket. If Taft were nominated Warren would possibly allay the fears of more liberal Republicans, if placed on the G. O. P. ticket, and if Eisenhower is the Republican candidate he would blend in nicely with most of Ike's international philosophy.

On the Democratic side, it has become increasingly obvious that despite his age, Vice President Alben Barkley would accept nomination again for this office. Barkley has made it clear to several people of late that he is ready to run again. His chances for renomination might suffer if President Truman does not run, but if the President runs again, Barkley must be given the inside chance for second-place on the Democratic ticket.

Building Permits Six Millions In October

DROP OVER SEPTEMBER ABOUT 50 PER CENT

RALEIGH, Nov. 30—Building permits issued in 77 North Carolina municipalities totaled \$6,608,628 during October, the State Department of Labor reported today.

The October total was less than tourist camp project. The new housing authorized during October will provide a total of 556 family dwellings.

The month's non-residential building permits, which totaled only \$1,555,355, included 43 stores, 12 factory and workshop buildings, 70 private garages, seven commercial garages and service stations, 14 churches, eight small office buildings, two institutional buildings, four public works buildings, and 35 temporary or un-

classified buildings.

Additions, alterations and repairs to existing buildings totaled \$1,332,225 in October.

Charlotte, which issued permits totaling \$1,166,085, was the only city reporting more than \$1 million. Greensboro was second with \$626,067 and Raleigh third with \$459,065. All other cities and towns were below \$400,000.

"Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed."

—General MacArthur.

AFL Predicts Living Cost To Rise In 1952

Washington, D. C. (ILNS).

The Capehart and Herlong amendments to the Defense Production Act may bring a two per cent increase in living costs, the American Federation of Labor said in its "Labor's Monthly Survey."

Organized labor vigorously opposed the two amendments when they were before Congress last summer.

New Auto Tags Now Being Sold

RALEIGH—The Department of Motor-Vehicles began mailing out more than 1,200,000 license renewal applications last week. The huge bulk of cards, which are necessary for purchasing new license tags, were distributed to their owners by December 1, the Department estimated, on that date the bright new '52 tags went on sale at branch offices throughout the state. The main office in Raleigh is closed on Saturday, the Department reminded, therefore tag sales here did not begin until Monday, December 3. Motorists who fail to receive a renewal application should request one from the Department of Motor Vehicles, supplying their vehicle's make and engine number. Current plates are valid up to January 31 but owners are urged to buy early and avoid expected last minute congestion.

Color scheme for the 1952 tags is a deep red background with white numerals and letters. Officials at State Prison, where the license plates are made, assured the Department that the new tags would not fade.

Truck and trailer owners, applying for new licenses, will be asked to list the body style, capacity and type of fuel used by their vehicles. The Motor Vehicles Department, in co-operation with the War Department, is seeking the information as a defense measure. The truck and trailer facts are needed in an effort to catalog the nation's total motor transport capabilities. For truck and trailer owners the renewal application card has been especially prepared so that the information asked for may be checked off simply and easily.

The Department is urging every such owner to fill in the information before buying plates, either by mail or in person.

In addition to the Raleigh office and the Winston-Salem Auto Club new license plates may be secured at the following branches of the Carolina Motor Club: Asheville, Albemarle, Asheboro, Asheville, Brevard, Burlington, Canton, Charlotte, Clinton, Concord, Dunn, Durham, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Elizabethtown, Fayetteville, Forest City, Franklin, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Greenville, Hamlet, Henderson, Hendersonville, Hickory, High Point, Jacksonville, Kannapolis, Kinston, Laurinburg, Leaksville, Lenoir, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lumberton, Manteo, Monroe, Morehead City, Morganton, Mt. Airy, Murphy, New Bern, North Wilkesboro, Oxford, Plymouth, Reidsville, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount, Roxboro, Rutherford, Salisbury, Sanford, Scotland Neck, Shelby, Siler City, Smithfield, Southern Pines, Tarboro, Statesville, Sylva, Tabor, Wadesboro, Wallace, Washington, Whiteville, Williamston, Wilmington, Wilson and Yanceyville.

NOT CLOCKS ONLY

A good story is told of old Thomas K. Beecher, who could not bear deceit in any form. Finding that a clock in his church was habitually too fast or too slow he hung a placard on the wall above it, reading in large letters:

"Don't blame my hands — the trouble lies deeper."

That is where the trouble lies with us when our hands do wrong, or our feet, or our lips, or even our thoughts. The trouble lies so deep that only God's miracle power can deal with it. Sin indeed goes deep; but Christ goes deeper.

—From Christian Witness.

The AFL prediction was made public on the eve of testimony by Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle, who asked repeal of the amendments and the last sentence of Section 101 of the act, the so-called Butler-Hope amendment. He spoke at a hearing held by the Joint Committee on Defense Production.

Increases in price ceilings may not result in immediate rises in the cost of living because of the big supply of goods on the market, the AFL survey said.

"But if demand rises next year and inventories keep on declining prices will undoubtedly rise," the federation declared. It added that the new formulas, after accounting for increased excise taxes, "might result in a rise of perhaps two per cent in the Consumers Price Index."

The AFL pointed out that the Office of Price Stabilization is completing its adjustment of price regulations as required by the Capehart and Herlong amendments. Explaining how they will force prices upward, it said:

"The complicated calculations necessary to arrive at the new ceilings make them exceedingly difficult to enforce. The Capehart formula allows manufacturers to pass on to the consumer all cost increases up to July 26, 1951. The Herlong amendment, applying to distributors (wholesale and retail stores) allows firms their pre-Korean percentage profit margins.

Consumer to Pay, As Usual. "These percentages, figured on higher costs, give higher total profits. So far distributors, it is profitable to increase costs, not reduce them. And if prices reach the new ceilings, the consumer will pay the bill."

The AFL prediction and Stabilizer DiSalle's testimony followed publication of the October Consumers Price Index, showing a record high in living costs. The index October 15 was 10.1 per cent higher than the June, 1950 (pre-Korea) figure, and 6.7 per cent above October of last year.

FERRET OUT TRAITORS, AFL URGES UNIONS

Washington, D. C. (ILNS). Hunt out Communist traitors, the American Federation of Labor admonishes labor in its current economic survey.

The federation warns that the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions was "given its marching orders for intensified subversive warfare" November 17 in East Berlin and emphasizes that the following policy was openly proclaimed:

"Communist agents are to bore from within western non-Communist labor unions. Strikes are to be called in defense-supporting industries. Western military programs must be crippled and sabotaged at all costs, WFTU's 200 top officials were told.

"Thus the Soviet Union now seeks to foment civil war within western nations whose growing military strength makes possible their resistance to communism. Unions must ferret out these traitors and bring them to justice."

The AFL says that according to well-informed persons, the Kremlin does not want a worldwide military conflict which it could win, but seeks to weaken the west by sabotaging its armament, and to conquer by infiltration, subversion and power pressure.

Purchase Union Label gifts and make it a very Merry Christmas.