

# THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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H. A. STALLS, Editor and Publisher

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P. O. Box 1061

Charlotte, N. C.



## William M. Witter

It is indeed with great sorrow that The Charlotte Labor Journal chronicles the passing on of a true friend, a staunch union man and a husband and father who, as long as physically able, provided advice, and moral and material sustenance to his loved ones and also to those whom he was associated with in the Labor movement.

William M. Witter passed away peacefully Saturday morning, July 12, at 3 o'clock, after having been confined for more than a year. He was a co-founder, with the writer, and editor and publisher of The Charlotte Labor Journal up until 1945. Since that time he had been Associate Editor of this newspaper. He possessed a keen and limitless wit and a foresight which were beacon lights to guide him in his activities. Outside of his immediate family he held the welfare of all mankind uppermost in his thinking.

Although he has departed, his kindly spirit will ever remain with us to cheer and guide us onward in plans made 22 years ago to provide a service to our brethren in the Labor Movement. May we have the strength and courage to carry on where he left off.

Brother Witter was the leader and guiding spirit which held the North Carolina Federation of Labor together back in 1937 when the top officials of the North Carolina Federation of Labor were on the verge of taking the AFL State Labor Movement into the

then newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations. He was named a Vice President of the State Federation in the new set-up and lived to see many of his goals achieved. Perhaps the greatest disappointment, however, was the failure of the labor movements to reunite before his passing. This he had hoped for and had worked for. Only a short time ago he told this writer that the breach will yet be healed and the time will come again when all American Labor will join hands and will co-operate in working out problems which vitally affect the working men and women of the Nation.

William Witter was of the old school. He came up under philosophies established by Samuel Gompers and Frank Morrison. At one time he was an organizer for the American Federation of Labor in North Carolina. That was in the days when all Labor was looked upon as being either socialistic or bolshevist. It was a time when labor organizers spent more time in jail than they did organizing the workers. They were beaten,— they were shot at,—and in many instances were killed for attempting to improve the conditions of their brethren. Yes; Brother Witter went through those days and survived, although the suffering was bitter for both he and his family.

Mr. Witter was the last living charter member of Charlotte Typographical Union. He and

the late Frank Gardner were instrumental in forming the local Printers Union in Charlotte May 26, 1897. He had an uncle, Martin Witter, who was president of the International Typographical Union back in the old days. Mr. Witter's family were pioneers in America and settled in Richmond, Virginia. This rugged individual inherited the spirit of his ancestors, we feel quite sure, and this led him onward in the face of seemingly insurmountable barriers.

We owe him our deepest gratitude for the fine legacy which he has left for our guidance; we owe him untold respect for the many bridges he has helped to build for us to cross over in our march forward.

In behalf of Labor The Journal extends its sincere condolence to members of his family.

### GOP NOMINATES GEN. IKE (Continued From Page 1)

By 607 to 531, a narrower margin than the first test, the Republican delegates reversed the rulings of their National Committee and their Credentials Committee. As a result the 18 Taft delegates from Georgia was unseated and a pro-Eisenhower group took their place.

#### Taft Forces Capitulate

The next big fight was on the seating of the Texas delegation. The Taft forces had sought to compromise in the Credentials Committee by reducing the original 36-2 ratio in favor of Taft to 22-16. But the Eisenhower backers would not agree and insisted upon a 33-5 split in favor of Ike. After a floor debate lasting into the early morning hours of Thursday, the Taft floor managers capitulated without another roll-call.

Thus the Eisenhower camp picked up a substantial bloc of new votes and thus the public got a liberal education in the skuldugery by which Republican delegates from Southern states, which rarely if ever go Republican in national elections, are habitually chosen. This was one time when the dirty linen got washed in public.

The story of how the National Committee had been packed with Taft supporters also was divulged during the convention. Jim Selvage, former press agent for the National Association of Manufac-

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The Publisher.

turers, was charged by Eisenhower leaders with having conducted a 4-year campaign to give Taft control of the Republican machinery. The Ohio Senator's success in this effort was manifested by the appointments of convention officers and the invitations to convention speakers.

#### Keynoter Off Key

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, a strong Taftite, was the keynoter, but he failed to make a hit with the delegates. Former President Herbert Hoover, another open Taft supporter, was the second night speaker. On the third day Sen. Joseph McCarthy, of Wisconsin, sharply at odds with the Eisenhower faction, was the featured orator.

When the permanent chairman, Joe Martin, leader of the House Republican Minority, started making his speech Wednesday night along the same pattern, the delegates apparently had enough of it. Martin was interrupted frequently by floor commotions which were distinctly unfriendly. However, he did not get booed, as did McCarthy and Dirksen.

It was clearly evident, long before the final roll-call, that the Old Guard would not die but was definitely fading away.

### LABOR JOURNAL ASSOCIATE EDITOR PASSED AWAY ON JULY 12

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and Edwin A. Witter of Charlotte, and Mrs. Arthur Maris of New York; and a sister, Mrs. R. O. Evans of Washington.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, Philip R. Leslie, hereby gives notice to all creditors and to all persons concerned, that he and his wife, Faith Johnston Leslie, are separated (and living apart) since June 27, 1952, wherein his said wife deserted him without just cause.

The undersigned does hereby give notice that he will not be responsible or obligated to pay any of the debts or obligations incurred by his said wife from the said date of June 27, 1952.

PHILIP R. LESLIE.  
(7-14, 21, 28; 8-7)