

L.P.A. Poses Questions to Nation's Labor Leaders

(Continued from Page 3)

niques of political action will go hand in hand with the membership push.

At the same time, the Guild will take its first steps toward establishing in the Heywood Brown Memorial Foundation a permanent home of its own, a Newspaper Hall of Fame, a Brown Museum and Library, and a Special Projects Division, all intended as long-time objectives that will contribute to the elevation of the newspaper industry as a medium of service to the public and will enhance the prestige of both the Guild and the trade union movement as a whole.

A small union numerically, the Guild has nevertheless set its sights on an ambitious program intended to achieve the maximum of benefits both to its members and to the Labor movement. The Guild also intends to carry its full share of the load looking toward correction of the country's inclement political atmosphere of the moment.

ORGANIC UNITY OF LABOR MOVEMENT PAPER MAKERS' HOPE

BY PAUL L. PHILLIPS, President, International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, AFL.

The most pressing task confronting the Labor movement in the months ahead is the achievement of organic labor unity. The urgency of this task becomes more and more apparent as the current Administration in Washington continues to cater to elements hostile to organized labor.

The first big step toward achieving this long-sought goal has already been taken. It came some months ago when the aptly named AFL-CIO unity committee drew up a no-raiding agreement and decided to lay it before the fall conventions of the two federations.

I for one hope that the delegates at both these conventions see fit to ratify the pact, to help eliminate this most wasteful, most divisive

practice in the Labor movement. I am also optimistic enough to believe that affirmative action by the two conventions will be followed by ratification on the part of member unions.

But that's only the beginning. A no-raiding pact must be implemented. It is up to the leaders as well as the rank and file of individual AFL and CIO unions to support the joint unity committee in the months ahead when—and if—that committee sits down to iron out the problems of jurisdiction.

This task will be complicated by the fact that jurisdictional squabbles exist not only between competing AFL and CIO unions, but between AFL unions themselves. It is good to know that the unity committee has already signified its intention to study the vexing problem of craft raids.

If we can solve the problem of jurisdiction, we'll be well on the way toward the organic unity we so badly need in these difficult days.

The 70,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers are ready, I am sure, to do their part in promoting labor unity. Our union supports and will continue to support the ratification of a no-raiding agreement and the elimination of all of the costly and futile raiding, regardless of who does it. Our union will also support—in the months ahead—the efforts of the AFL-CIO joint unity committee to achieve total and complete unity within the North American labor movement.

EDUCATE AND ORGANIZE WHITE COLLAR AND RURAL WORKERS, WASHBURN URGES

BY LESTER WASHBURN, Pres., United Automobile Workers, AFL

The most pressing task for the Labor movement in the year ahead, in my opinion, is the same as it has been since the time of Samuel Gompers. That task is to "organize the unorganized"—a task which, despite all efforts in the past, continues to remain as a major challenge to our unions today. Although we are proud of the great progress made since the time of Gompers, and although we recognize that there are close to 15,000,000 union members in the country today, that figure becomes far less impressive when we consider that our total American working force now substantially exceeds 60,000,000. This means that for every union man or woman in our ranks, there are three workers who claim no affiliation nor make any contribution toward our objectives.

The lack of unionization in certain fields is apparent to all of us and certainly the white collar groups are particularly in dire need of such organization. Because of their comparatively poor economic position, many of them display a hostility toward unions, rather than a desire to join with them. Therefore, we suffer not only from a lack of this membership but are faced with a definite antagonism which we can ill-afford from so substantial a segment of our American working force.

But even in those fields which are commonly thought to be well organized, there exist many opportunities for further unionization. This is particularly true in rural areas and in smaller plants which as yet have not been brought into the fold. Here, too, in small communities, we generally find an unfortunate air of suspicion toward labor unions. By pressing our organization in these isolated sections, we can accomplish a double purpose. First, we can organize the unorganized and second, we shall have a first-hand opportunity to demonstrate to the workers and the communities that unions are not the irresponsible, reckless organization which the newspapers all too frequently paint them.

In other words, an inevitable accompaniment to organizing is the fostering of a public relations program. The two go hand in hand. All other facets of the labor movement revolve around its continued growth. Therefore, I believe that accelerated organization continues to remain the most pressing task in the year ahead.

Insofar as the UAW-AFL is concerned, we have never deviated from our "organize the unorganized" objective. In 1953, we have added many thousands of new members and have chartered at least 60 more locals. We expect to intensify our drive in the months ahead and have been particularly gratified at the progress we are making in the southern states and on the West Coast. Much of our particular industry is still not unionized and we pledge our own personal efforts in our own particular field to continue to swell the

ever-growing ranks of those workers who carry and who are proud of their union card.

REACTIONARY FORCES WOULD UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY INDIRECTLY PROMOTE COMMUNISM BY A. J. HAYES, President, International Association of Machinists, AFL.

Organized Labor in the United States, with all of its faults and weaknesses, has made a great and significant contribution toward the betterment of life for our kind of people and the country as a whole throughout our history.

Since we, of the working force, formed our labor organizations and asserted our rights, we have caused gain for everyone. Our society has benefited by the tremendous flow of goods and services we produce; employers have benefited by the increased profits they have received; and we have benefited by the shorter hours, higher wages, better working conditions, and an ever increasing standard of living which we enjoy. We have acted as a good and stimulus to progress; we have achieved greater recognition of human rights; we have secured respect for the dignity of labor, we have asserted the dignity of man; we have insisted on respect for the aspirations of man; and we have seen to it that the products of human inventiveness have been extended to all men instead of a chosen few; we have fought for and helped to secure free public education; we have fought for and helped to secure freedom from imprisonment for debt; we have secured a shorter work week, we have fought for the abolishment of child labor, we have fought for and secured unemployment compensation and old-age security benefits to relieve the insecurities which prevailed; and we have contributed to the securing of many other benefits.

Every segment of our society has benefited by our accomplishments. We have helped substantially to make our country a better place in which to live.

The arguments which we have heard so much from our opposition and many of their political friends, which maintain that the further improvement of economic, social, educational and health opportunities is socialism and that we must again restore the type of individual freedom which prevailed in the old days of exploitation and the Yellow Dog contract, is nothing less than self-serving propaganda of minds becoming more and more warped toward Fascism. The propaganda of these forces and their emissaries in Congress that the improvements we seek in our general standards of living, including education and health, are not possible under our form of government is not only utterly false but actually undermines the very foundation of our Democracy and plays into the hands of the Communists.

This and more we must add to our already crowded schedule in the forthcoming year. We have matured into greater responsibilities than were ever carried by Organized Labor before. The manner in which we carry out these responsibilities will not only influence our own economic, social and cultural life but may well influence the economic and cultural life of other peoples who are still struggling to be free. Such is the importance of the Organized Labor Movement in the United States today. While our obstacles are many, they are not unconquerable.

STAND TOGETHER; REPEL McCARTHYISM; REGAIN POLITICAL INITIATIVE

By Hugo Ernst, President Hotel and Restaurant Workers AFL

In my opinion the most pressing task facing organized labor during the next 12 months is the job of regaining the political initiative which lies now in the hands of the most anti-labor elements in the country.

There are many storm signals already flying which should warn us of serious trouble ahead. Among these are the "deflation steps" being taken by the Administration, like raising the interest rate, and which include the philosophy expressed in some quarters that "the country needs a little unemployment."

Another is the utter failure of the Administration to deliver on its campaign pledge to make certain amendments in the Taft-Hartley Act.

A third is the ominous trend toward wrecking the system of Federal supports for the nation's standard of living built up over the last 20 years. Public housing, public power, health measures, Social Security, natural resources, unemployment insurance, all these and

more are already threatened.

A fourth is the continued attack on civil liberties led by McCarthy & Co. which must have as a prime goal the silencing of all voices, including those giving tongue to organized labor's demands, which wish to dissent from the reactionary trend of the times.

How can labor regain the initiative?

One way is to refuse to be frightened out of our wits by those who want the public to think you're un-American when you speak out for a return to the ways of social justice.

Another way is to redouble our efforts to organize the unorganized.

A third way is to put up a vigorous battle at the bargaining table, and on the picket line when necessary, in order to win for working people the pay scales they must have to earn not just a living wage, but a saving wage.

A fourth way is to get down to cases in political action. 1954 is an enormous challenge to us to prove that we are willing to work, yes, and to contribute our dollars. We must build the kind of community political campaigns that will send to the showers those worthies in Congress who are bent on turning back the clock.

But it seems to me the most important single thing we can do is to restore labor's old-time militant solidarity. When one union, be they cooks or steelworkers or miners, be they AFL or CIO or Independent, is engaged in a struggle with the bosses, then every union within reach should be lending every possible kind of support within its means.

This kind of working, day-to-day solidarity, on the economic and political battle fronts, strikes me as the only sure way to move toward real, effective labor unity.

And it is only through such solidarity of rank-and-file working people that labor can win again the political initiative which is the sole instrument to defend our living standards from those who are now seeking to weaken them.

Need Sound Management, An Annual "Saving Wage"; Spread the Work

By Charles J. MacGowan, Pres. International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, AFL

The most important task before the American labor movement is the policy now being formulated by the federal government which may determine the course of world affairs as between war and peace. The economic policy being drawn will decide if we in America are to continue to enjoy prosperity or be forced into an economic depression.

To enjoy continued prosperity the full partnership of labor must be recognized and admitted, and labor must assume its responsibility by selecting their chosen representatives to give expression to the workers' viewpoint at the directors' table. Inefficiency or dishonesty of management is even more the concern of the workers than it is of the stockholders; stability of employment at good wages can only follow sound management. Industry must eventually be so ordered that it will pay the workers an annual saving wage, thus permitting them to maintain their families in keeping with decent American standards, and by the application of thrift enable them to pass their declining years in comfort and security.

Hours of labor can no longer be determined upon the endurance of the workers, but must be predicated upon the available supply of man-power and the requirements of the population; the march of science and invention and the creative genius of our people has so increased the worker's productivity that we are confronted with a permanent army of unemployed. This army will either be maintained in idleness by taxation heaped upon the backs of the poor, or available work must be equitably distributed by a reduction of hours—society cannot escape this responsibility.

As to the manner in which this organization is going to tackle its share of the task referred to above: The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers shall consolidate its forces and intensify its efforts on the domestic, labor, and political fronts to protect our national security and the free labor movement.

Unity, Not Raiding, Organize the Unorganized, Will Repel Anti-Union Forces

By Anthony Valente, President United Textile Workers of America AFL

Labor's great task in the months that lie ahead is to bring about

L. G. JONES COTTON CO.
COTTON BROKERS
E. L. Patterson, Mgr. Gastonia, North Carolina

GREETINGS
CAROLINA CLEANERS
All Articles Insured Against Fire and Theft
ONE DAY SERVICE
Dial 5-5041 209 S. Firestone St.
GASTONIA, N. C.

FRANKLIN HARDWARE CO.
COMPLETE HARDWARE LINES
Builders Hardware — Paint
Tools — Glass
GARDEN TOOLS — SEED
Sporting Goods — Fishing Supplies
1225 W. Franklin Street Phone 7011
GASTONIA, N. C.

Greetings To Labor
Superior Stone Company
Kings Mountain, N. C.

GREETINGS
D. W. DAWN
PAINTING CONTRACTOR
INTERIOR DECORATING
1330 Franklin Ave. Gastonia, N. C.

A. B. CARTER, INCORPORATED
Operating
MILL DEVICES COMPANY
BOYCE WEAVERS KNOTTERS
CARTER TRAVELER CO.
RING TRAVELERS
South Linwood
GASTONIA, N. C.

LABOR DAY GREETINGS
Kivett Electric Co.
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
Telephone 3237
ASHEBORO, N. C.

GREETINGS TO LABOR
SPENCER-RHYNE BOOK COMPANY
OFFICE OUTFITTERS — PRINTERS
"Over 32 Years of Service"
257 W. Main St. Phone 5-2356
GASTONIA, N. C.

STERCHI'S
Better Your Home — Better Your Living
with Furniture from Sterchi's
174-180 South St. Tel. 5-1266
GASTONIA, N. C.

R. E. McLEAN
TANK MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS
Realty Building P. O. Box 1062
Phone 5-4361
Gastonia, North Carolina

GREETINGS TO LABOR
From
STOWE MERCANTILE COMPANY
6 North Main St.
Telephone 321
BELMONT, N. C.

Herman-Sipe & Co., Incorporated
GENERAL CONTRACTING
★
Conover Phone 612 Hickory Phone 2247
CONOVER, N. C.