



Johnson In Favor Of Shorter Hours And Higher Wages

Critics Open Fire On NRA Codes As Conferences On Revisions Open In Washington

Washington, Feb. 27.—Clamoring critics opened fire on the NRA tonight after General Hugh S. Johnson, opening conferences on code revisions, promised a "new forward movement" toward recovery and invited helpful suggestions and complaints.

The ruddy-faced administrator promised hundreds of assembled men and women that a drive would be made for tighter NRA compliance and emphasized that shorter hours and higher hourly pay were essential.

He warned those who had come to criticize against mere accusations unsupported by proof, and showed that he meant the warning when, as protests started during the afternoon, he intervened repeatedly to demand facts and figures instead of loose statements.

In five separate conferences, after a joint opening addressed by Johnson, NRA officials listened to criticisms of hour and wage provisions, price regulation, the effect of the NRA upon the small business man and other phases of the code program.

The importance which Johnson attaches to revising wages upward and hours of work downward in present codes was shown when he questioned closely Joe Kiss, secretary of the Furniture Workers Industrial Union, who complained bluntly the NRA had really raised hours and lowered the workers' standard of living in his trade.

Johnson appeared disturbed when William Collins, national representative of the American Federation of Labor, charged that the automobile industry maintained a great spy system to thwart the labor guarantees under NRA.

"They have taken advantage of you, Mr. General, because they know you are busy," Collins declared. "God help us when people become so poisoned that a law of this kind passed by their own Congress can not be made to work."

During the afternoon there were complaints that sections in some codes preventing home work were working a hardship upon women who depended upon this revenue to maintain their families. There were also suggestions that the abolition of home work be made an established NRA policy.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, demanded a 30-hour week for all industry. Johnson, however, does not feel that this is possible at this time. He looks more favorably upon a 36-hour week.

There were some suggestions that organized labor police industries to force compliance with codes. Fears were expressed that business may not measure up to opportunities granted it under NRA.

Simultaneously, the National Review Board, headed by Clarence Darrow, began its work, designed to give the "little fellow" oppressed by codes, a place to air his grievances. It asked President Roosevelt to make it a separate organization outside of NRA.

WILKES CO. DEMOCRATS CHOOSE CHAIRMAN SAT. North Wilkesboro, Feb. 27.—At a meeting of the Wilkes county Democratic executive committee held here Saturday afternoon, D. J. Brookshire, prominent farmer and business man, was elected chairman of the committee.

C. O. McNeill, prominent business man of this city and chairman of the Wilkes county board of education, was named secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Brookshire.

Elkin Boosters And Others Coming Here

Members of the Merchants' associations of Elkin, Greensboro and Winston-Salem will come here on a "booster" trip Wednesday, March 7. It is expected that about fifty persons will make the trip and the party will have lunch at Four Oaks Tavern.

The object of the merchants in making the trip is to promote the spirit of good will between the various towns.

The program will include speeches, band music, etc. The Elkin association is sponsoring the trip.

Father And Son To Die For Murder Of N. Wilkesboro Man

Bascom Green And Son, Lester, Sentenced By Judge Warlick To Be Executed April 27

Taylorsville, Feb. 27.—Bascom Green, 47, and his son, Lester, 24, were sentenced here Friday night to die in the electric chair on Friday, April 27, following their conviction of murder in connection with the attempted robbery of the Merchants' and Farmers' Bank here last summer. The jury rendered a verdict of first degree murder for both men at 9:25 o'clock after deliberating for three hours. Sentence was passed immediately by Judge Warlick.

Defense attorneys announced they would appeal to the supreme court. Following his conviction, Lester Green denied that he had had anything to do with the fatal shooting of T. C. Barnes, cashier of the bank.

Solon Little, assistant cashier, was seriously wounded in the hold-up. R. E. Black and Mike Stevenoff, two other alleged members of the hold-up quartet, are now on death's row in state's prison, following their conviction of murder in connection with Barnes' death.

Solon Little, star state witness, had testified that he was shot by Bascom Green and that Stevenoff had shot Barnes.

Friday's session of court was devoted to arguments by Solicitor John R. Jones and counsel for the defense. Mrs. Green, who sat through the trial of her husband and son, wept hysterically when the verdict and the sentences were announced.

The jury had recommended mercy, but Judge Warlick said that the death penalty was automatic, and that the recommendation would be made part of the record.

Neither prisoner showed any change of expression when judgment was pronounced. Judge Warlick called attention to Mrs. Green and Mrs. Barnes, widow of the slain man and her children, saying that if everyone could see them surely crime would be deterred.

The large crowd which waited expectantly at the courthouse was quiet and orderly when the verdict was returned and sentences passed.

Sales Tax Figures In Alleghany Tabulated

Announcement has been made by state officials in Raleigh that sales tax collections in Alleghany county for the first six-month period amounted to \$2,510. The tabulations made by the officials show the indicated yields of the taxes for one year in the state, basing the yield upon double the amount collected for the first six months. The indicated yield for Alleghany county is \$5,020.

According to the announcement tax relief afforded by the last legislature in enactment of the sales tax and other measures affords a property tax reduction in Alleghany county of \$10,568. These figures would leave a property tax reduction in excess of sales tax collections made and anticipated for the year of \$5,548.

Cashing-In on Fourth Largest Diamond



On the right is Jacobus Jonker Sr., finder of the fourth largest diamond in the world, handing over the stone to Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, left, who had delivered approximately \$400,000 to Jacobus Jonker Jr., center, in payment for the stone.

Heavy Sleet Does Great Damage In Certain Sections

Sparta And Alleghany County Get Heaviest Snowfall Of Season. Much Damage Around Elkin

Sparta was visited Saturday night by the heaviest snowfall of the season, the depth reaching several inches. Rain, which fell Sunday, later turning to sleet, made driving on the highways of Alleghany county rather difficult, although conditions wrought by the onslaught of real winter weather here was not so severe when compared with reports of damage done by the storm in the vicinity of Elkin, Winston-Salem and other parts of the state.

Reports brought to an ice-locked Winston-Salem by stage drivers indicated that the extreme weather conditions prevailing there extended out for a distance of 75 miles to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Brooks Cross Roads, Yadkinville, Statesville and North Wilkesboro suffered from similar conditions. Power and telephone lines were down, the region locked without electricity or means of wire communication.

The main highway from Winston-Salem to the Blue Ridge Mountains, 20 miles west of North Wilkesboro, is reported to be free of ice and snow. The heavy ice formation on trees, due to a steady downpour of rain, freezing as it fell, extended to Purlreez, 75 miles from Winston-Salem.

Snow was reported as being three inches deep in Boone at 6:30 o'clock Monday, with no indication of a let-up. No ice, however, had formed on the trees there. The temperature was falling steadily.

The immense area around Winston-Salem was stated to be the worst stricken with heaviest damage to trees. One man who owns a tract of land in Stokes county said the storm Sunday night cost him \$10,000 in the loss of trees. Other heavy losses in wooded areas were reported.

The entire Northwestern North Carolina area was indicated to be covered with snow extending certainly as far as Bristol, Tenn.

M. C. Woodie, stage driver making the Minston-Salem to North Wilkesboro run Sunday night, declared the conditions then existing to be the worst in years, if not establishing an all-time record. It required three hours to drive the 58 miles. Power and telephone lines were down and laying across the road and the way was further obstructed by large branches, whole trees and telephone poles. At one time passengers were re-

ELKIN THIEF CAPTURED Elkin, Feb. 27.—Tom Meeks (not Tom Mix, as first reported) who dared to crash a plate glass window in the bargain basement of Elkin's largest department store at 9:30 Saturday night while the streets were crowded with Saturday visitors, and nab an armful of men's shoes as he departed in the direction of Yadkin county, led the Elkin and Jonesville night policemen a heated chase over the hills and country trails through a blinding snowstorm which continued many hours before being trailed to a temporary place of refuge, and captured at 11 o'clock Sunday morning, in a tobacco barn on the Brushies.

CWA EMPLOYMENT IN N. C. BELOW 70,000 FEB. 22 Raleigh, Feb. 27.—A total of 68,592 persons were employed on civil works projects in North Carolina during the week ending February 22, on a total pay roll of \$681,742.46. Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, state CWA administrator, announced tonight.

Mrs. O'Berry now faces the task of reducing the CWA employment rolls by 12,000 in line with the program calling for nation-wide demobilization of the service by May 1.

Doughton Appoints Miller As Secretary

News has been received here from Washington, D. C., that Representative Doughton has recently appointed Harry Miller, of Stony Point, Alexander county, as his secretary. According to the announcement, Mr. Miller was expected to go to Washington within a few days, to assume his new duties.

The appointee is a hardware merchant and has taken a prominent part in the political affairs in Alexander county. He is at present chairman of the Alexander county Democratic executive committee.

Boxing Matches To Be Staged March 3 At Va.-Car. "Gym"

Proceeds Of Bouts At Grassy Creek Saturday Night To Be Applied On Gymnasium Indebtedness

On Saturday night, March 3, at 8 o'clock, several boxing bouts will be staged in the new gymnasium at Grassy Creek high school, according to a recent announcement by Prof. William C. LaRue. According to Prof. LaRue, some of the boxers who are expected to participate in the bouts are the fastest, cleverest and most skillful in that section.

"Physical education has come to be thought of as one of the most important branches of education," says Prof. LaRue. "A sound body makes a sound mind more efficient."

"Realizing this fact, educators everywhere are advocating many different forms of physical training. School gymnasiums are becoming numerous and are proving popular centers for community entertainment of a wholesome nature."

"This is particularly true of the new gymnasium of the Virginia-Carolina high school at Grassy Creek, which has been built largely by community effort aided by considerable contributions by business and professional men in the nearby towns."

Due to the fact that it takes great moral courage and physical stamina to become a good boxer, according to the announcement, those who are fortunate enough to see the bouts at Grassy Creek Saturday night should be impressed with the ability of the boxers to "give and take."

The public is invited to see the matches. A small admission charge will be made, which will be applied on the balance of indebtedness on the new gymnasium.

Higgins To Become District Attorney

News from Washington, D. C. in regard to the resignation of District Attorney J. R. McCrary, of the middle Federal district of North Carolina is of special interest in Sparta because the resignation paves the way for the appointment of Solicitor Carlisle Higgins, Democrat, of Sparta, to fill the vacancy. The resignation is to take effect June 30 and was forthcoming at the request of the Department of Justice. It was said Saturday that no fault had been found with the manner in which Mr. McCrary had discharged the duties of his office, but that the request for his resignation was due to the fact that he is a Republican. The appointment of Solicitor Higgins has been asked of the Justice department by Senator Bailey.

Senator Bailey has also recommended the appointment of Bryce R. Holt, a member of the Greensboro bar, as assistant district attorney. R. S. McNeil, of Mocksville, is also said to have the endorsement of Senator Bailey for appointment as assistant district attorney.

BANKERS' ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN PINEHURST

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—The North Carolina Bankers' Association will meet in its 38th annual convention at the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, Thursday and Friday, April 26-27, Paul P. Brown, secretary, announced. The bankers' code and other business will be discussed.

North Wilkesboro Fire Friday Fatal To Three Persons

Two Children And Servant Die From Injuries Received When Blair Residence Catches On Fire

North Wilkesboro, Feb. 27.—Barber Blair, 14-months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Blair II, her 3-year old brother, Frank P. Blair III, and Nellie Barber, colored servant, were fatally burned Friday afternoon when the home of F. P. Blair, grandfather of the children, caught fire. The baby, who died at 7 o'clock Friday night, was the first victim of the fire. The colored girl passed away about 2 o'clock Saturday morning and the 3-year old boy died about two hours later.

F. P. Blair, the two children and the servant, and Miss Christine Irvin, a nurse, were in the home at the time the fire started. It is supposed the fire started when the colored girl was filling a small heater with kerosene. The can is reported to have exploded, filling the second story hallway with flames.

The colored girl, with her clothing on fire, is thought to have run into the room where the baby was in its crib, grabbed it and started to run down the stairs. The older child ran by her side. When they reached the foot of the stairway the girl collapsed. Men working nearby rushed into the home and carried out the children and the colored girl.

The children and their parents have been making their home with the elder Mr. Blair. The fire was extinguished by firemen with considerable difficulty, due to the fact that it had spread rapidly and the attractive and valuable home with its furnishings were damaged to the extent of at least \$2,000. Walls of the entire second story were charred and the fire was spreading under the roof when it was finally placed under control.

The parents of the children were downtown at the time of the tragedy, the father being engaged in the ice and fuel business here. The grandfather is a prominent business man of this section.

The fire took the two children from one of the most prominent families in North Wilkesboro and the tragedy has shocked the entire city and community.

The Blair residence was one of the first in North Wilkesboro, having been constructed by the late Colonel Blair when the city was in its infancy.

F. P. Blair, Sr., who lost his eyesight in an auto accident recently was carried from the home without injury, but the loss of his grandchildren was such a shock that in his weakened condition fear is expressed for his recovery. He was carried to a Statesville hospital Friday night and Saturday his condition was reported as improved.

128 BOMBS IN NEW GRAVE Tarragona, Spain.—Suspicious of a freshly dug grave, police opened it and found 123 bombs, ready for use.

ALMANAC section with various dates and events for February and March.