

THE 150-YR. FIGHT FOR AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM

— Article 5 —

The first permanent labor federation in the United States was the American Federation of Labor. It succeeded where other attempts at lasting organization had failed. It was formed in 1886 after a series of conferences beginning in 1881 as the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada.

Raised Concrete Demands

The A. F. of L. based itself on very practical considerations; namely, how the workers could obtain higher wages and shorter hours. It also appealed to the skilled workers to protect their trades in the face of growing industrialization. Gompers and his group said the workers were more interested in getting their bread and butter than in such idealistic theories and experimental activities as labor parties, cooperatives, etc. In one sense he was correct in believing that the workers must organize for daily struggle to win their immediate demands. He was wrong in ignoring all other working class action. But at any rate the practical program of the Federation soon attracted the vast majority of the skilled workers all over the country.

Born in Struggle

The A. F. of L. actually saw the light of day in the bitter fight for the eight-hour day. When the leadership of the Knights of Labor sabotaged the call for a general strike on May 1, 1886, for the shorter-work-day, Gompers rallied the American working men and women around the banner of the Federation. The A. F. of L. also organized on a practical basis. It built a strong central organization so as to unite all local groups into one body. It set aside a strike and emergency fund which protected the unions in times of struggle, depression, etc. Unionism, for the first time, became a really scientific business.

The Federation succeeded in winning a number of victories for the skilled workers but from the outset it neglected the ever-growing army of mass production workers. The A. F. of L. fought bitterly against these increasing numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workmen. It feared the inevitable — that the skilled craftsmen would become swallowed up in the giant plants. The CIO had to be born to answer the problems of this new army as the A. F. of L. had answered the problems of the skilled craftsman.

(Last article in the series in next week's issue)



SPORT SPARKS

CIO 'Americans' Selected as Name for Ball Team

At a meeting of the Union Activities Committee and the baseball team, the name "Americans" was voted upon as the handle of the Local 301 nine. The name was submitted in the contest sponsored by the Union, by Paul Yafrazi. The winner will receive the \$50 war bond that was the prize for the selected name at the grand opening of the team on June 7 at Central Park.

Signifies Unity

The players particularly liked the name because it perfectly describes the composition of the team. As one player put it, "This is a typical American outfit. We have a League of Nations and both Negroes and Whites on the club. It's American if I ever saw anything." And that's the way we all feel about it. We want our team to be an outstanding example of national unity. All races, religions and nationalities fighting together to win.

Nosed Out in Opening League Game

We were just nosed out, 5-4, in the last inning of our opening City League game with the Thelens on Wednesday evening at Central Park. The boys are still a little shaky, playing together for the first time, but Buck Ewing's gang will be working smoothly before long. Bucky himself dons a uniform for the first time against the Refrigerators in the next League game on Monday at the Park. Let's all be on hand to give them a big hand. Time, 6:15.

The boys made a good impression on the fans in their first appearance by their sportsmanship as some of the plays were called a little close at times.

June 7th Opening in City

The "Americans" open officially in the City at Central Park on Sunday, June 7th against the Thelens. In order to insure a big turnout for the event, tickets are being mailed out to committeemen to be sold in the plant. Show your union spirit by turning out in full force and let the boys know that the G.E. Workers are behind them 100 per cent.

THE UPPER CRUST



"Now, gentlemen, on the motion to urge passage of a general sales tax — any opposed?"

New Workers' Progress Credited To Old Timers' Assistance

We have noticed the new employees progressing much faster today than they did during the peaks of employment of the World War. Many reasons have been offered as to why this is possible. However, we think much credit is due the Union and the long-service worker who has established himself and knows the way around.

Industrial Unionism Brings Cooperation

A new worker in the shop needs the cooperation of the older employees or his chance of advancement is greatly curtailed. The method of industrial unionism, the organization of all the workers in the plant into one union, has established a much better relationship between employees and has encouraged them to help one another.

Seniority Protects Job

No longer does the older worker have to fear the influx of younger men into the shop. Seniority rights guarantee him his job and he is given that much more encouragement to assist the newcomer. Also, through the union machinery, a better understanding of shop practices as they affect new employees as well as old has been established. More time and effort are devoted to learning and producing.

As a result, because of confidence and security built by the union among the older employees who are the backbone of any plant, the tools have been shared, the tricks of the trade have been liberally transmitted, and new help is able to produce in a relatively short time.

Girls To Run Dance For Soldier Boys

Under the sponsorship of the Union Victory Committee the girls of the Weber plant are staging a dance for the soldier boys in town on the night of June 6th at the CIO Hall.

This affair is the first in a series to make the army boys feel at home during their stay in the city. No better place than the Union headquarters could be found for such affairs and no better partners than the girls who are helping to turn out the materials of the war for freedom. Let's see everybody out at the Union Hall the night of June 6th.



Have You Contributed
Your 10% This Week?

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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Bridges Ouster Move Threat To Unity

The action of Attorney-General Biddle last week in ordering the deportation of Harry Bridges, West Coast longshore leader and head of the California CIO, on the charge that he was a Communist and therefore a dangerous element, came as a shock to the American people.

For years now we have been listening to the old malarkey that every good union member or union leader is a Communist and consequently, by all the laws of heaven and earth, is an enemy of the United States. Such a charge is more easily said than proved. But, unfortunately, too many people have, in the past, not waited for proof or for logic and have bitten hook, line and sinker on the bait that the National Manufacturers Ass'n and the bankers have handed out. But we finally got wise and realized that a certain racketeer by the name of Hitler had used the same technique to keep people's eyes off the ball and then sneak one over. We then told the red-baiters where to head in. The U.E. especially, at its last convention, rejected all attempts to inject the red-question into the discussion of union policy. We could not afford to play right into the hands of those who wanted to get rid of such leaders as Emspak, Fitzgerald, etc., just by calling them Communists.

Now up pops Mr. Biddle with this discredited trick. And we have a very strong suspicion that this old fashioned stunt was pulled off to shut Bridge's mouth just when he was going to spill some beans about certain big shots on the Coast who were just too, too friendly with Axis agents. The squeeze play must have been called, but all that Biddle did was to hit a foul ball and try to stretch it into a hit.

One look at Bridges' record will show any but the blind that he can, in no way, be called an enemy of this country. Wasn't it Bridges, on the admission of the California Merchants' Ass'n who cleaned up the labor racketeering on the West Coast? You don't notice any Normandie burning mysteriously out on the Coast. Not with Bridges on the job making sure that only the most reliable, trustworthy people get near our ships. It was Bridges who was one of the first to advocate improved methods of production for the war effort. It was Bridges who went so far to cooperate with the government as to ask the longshoremen to be on hand at almost any hour without overtime pay because military secrecy would not permit advance notice of the arrival of ships. It is Bridges who, thru

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Vacations to be Worked Out Where Necessary

By LEO JANDREAU

It is pretty well recognized by all that the need for sacrificing our vacations this year is more urgent than in past years because of the need to supply our armed forces and the United Nations fighting at fronts all over the world.

However, it is also recognized that some employees have been working extra long hours and some have sacrificed their vacations for two consecutive years. There may be in these cases a physical need for taking a rest. In these cases, employees may be granted vacations by notifying the foremen of their desires and schedules will be worked out by the foremen.

Shorter Periods Asked

We are confident that some of the employees who may be entitled to two weeks will be satisfied this year with one week, and those employees who may be entitled to one week can arrange to take a week-end or two during the summer months.

We should remember that shortage of certain critical materials may cause a lack of work later on this year. When lack of work happens, vacations can be granted without impairing the defense program.

On Our Honor

It is a difficult task to determine whether a person physically needs the vacation. All of us will be obliged to be on our honor to make this decision. However, we do know the seriousness of the war and the sacrifices that are being made with loss of life and limb at the front. That sacrifice is to protect you and me and our families.

Union Wins Certificate For Bond Sales

TREASURY DEPARTMENT AWARD FOR 90% PARTICIPATION

Local 301 this week received the Treasury Department certificate for having attained at least 90% participation in the sale of war bonds. As a matter of fact almost 100% of the membership of our union is contributing regularly to the bond sale drive. The award gives official government recognition to the part played by the union in supporting the financial end of the war effort.

Mr. Harry Aussiker, representative from the Union to the country bond sale coordinating committee, expressed his gratification at the splendid showing made by the union membership. "Such a record," Mr. Aussiker declared, "shows that when the call comes to defend our free and democratic rights as American citizens, we union men and women do not look upon it as a sacrifice but rather deem it a privilege to answer such a call. I urge every member of Local 301 to uphold this splendid record by continued participation in the bond effort as long as the need is imperative."

REBUKES BIDDLE



J. A. Beasley, supply minister in Australia's Labor Government, who, by implication rebuked U.S. Atty.-Gen. Francis Biddle when he declared there was no legal bar to the return of Harry Bridges to Australia.

ORIGINAL TORN

VICE-PRESIDENT WALLACE SPEAKS OUT

◆ Concluded from last issue ◆

The Century of the Common Man

Modern science, which is a by-product and an essential part of the people's revolution, has made it technologically possible to see that all of the people of the world get enough to eat. Half in fun and half seriously, I said the other day to Madame Litvinoff: "The object of this war is to make sure that everybody in the world has the privilege of drinking a quart of milk a day." She replied: "Yes, even a pint." The peace must mean a better standard of living for the common man, not merely in the United States and England, but also in India, Russia, China and Latin America—not merely in the United Nations, but also in Germany and Italy and Japan.

Some have spoken of the "American Century". I say that the century on which we are entering—the century which will come into being after this war—can be and must be the century of the common man. Perhaps it will be America's opportunity to support the freedoms and duties by which the common man must live. Everywhere the common man must learn to build his own industries with his own hands in a practical fashion. Everywhere the common man must learn to increase his productivity so that he and his children can eventually pay to the world community all that they have received. No nation will have the God-given right to exploit other nations. Other nations will have the privilege to help younger nations get started on the path to industrialism, but there must be neither military nor economic imperialism.

The methods of the nineteenth century will not work in the people's century which is now about to begin. India, China, and Latin America have a tremendous stake in the people's century. As their masses learn to read and write, and as they become productive mechanics, their standard of living will double and treble. Modern science, when devoted wholeheartedly to the general welfare, has in it potentialities of which we do not yet dream.

Must Think of the Whole World

And modern science must be released from German slavery. International cartels that serve American greed and the German will to power must go. Cartels in the peace to come must be subjected to international control for the common man, as well as being under adequate control by the respective home governments. In this way, we can prevent the Germans from again building a war machine while we sleep. With international monopoly pools under control, it will be possible for inventions to serve all the people instead of only the few.

Yes, and when the time of peace comes, the citizen will again have a duty, the supreme duty of sacrificing the lesser interest for the greater interest of the general welfare. Those who write the peace must think of the whole world. There can be no privileged peoples.

If we really believe that we are fighting for a people's peace, all the rest becomes easy. Production, yes—it will be easy to get production without either strikes or sabotage; production with the wholehearted cooperation between willing arms and keen brains; enthusiasm, zip, energy geared to the tempo of keeping at it everlasting day after day. Hitler knows as well as those of us who sit in on the War Production Board meetings that we here in the United States are winning the battle of production. He knows that both labor and business in the United States are doing a most remarkable job and that his only hope is to crash through to a complete victory some time during the next six months.

And then there is the task of transportation to the line of battle by truck, by railroad car, by ship. We shall joyously deny ourselves so that our transportation system is improved by at least 30%. There

is going to be some denying. You'll hear plenty about it soon.

I need say little about the duty to fight. Some people declare, and Hitler believes, that the American people have grown soft in the last generation. Hitler agents continually preach in South America that we are cowards, unable to use, like the "brave" German soldiers, the weapons of modern war with a holy hatred. But because of that fact, and because Hitler and the German people stand as the very symbol of war, we shall fight with a tireless enthusiasm until war and the possibility of war have been removed from this planet. We shall cleanse the plague spot of Europe, which is Hitler's Germany, and with it the hell-hole of Asia—Japan.

Heroic Traditions Now in the Making

The American people have always had guts and always will have. You know the story of bomber pilot Dixon and radioman Gene Aldrich and ordnance man Tony Rastula—the story which Americans will be telling their children for generations to illustrate man's ability to master any rate. These men lived for 34 days on the open sea in a rubber life raft, 8 feet by 4 feet, with no food but that which they took from the sea and the air with one pocket knife and a pistol. And yet they lived it through and came at last to the beach of an island they did not know. In spite of their suffering and weakness, they stood like men, with no weapon left to protect themselves, and no shoes on their feet or clothes on their backs, and walked in military file because, they said, "If there were Japs, we didn't want to be crawling."

The American fighting men, and all the fighting men of the United Nations, will need to summon all their courage during the next few months. I am convinced that the summer and fall of 1942 will be a time of supreme crisis for us all. Hitler, like the prize-fighter who realizes he is on the verge of being knocked out, is gathering all his remaining forces for one last, desperate blow.

We may be sure that Hitler and Japan will co-operate to do the unexpected—perhaps an attack by Japan against Alaska and our Northwest coast at a time when German transport planes will be situated across from Dakaar to furnish leadership and stiffening to a German uprising in Latin America. In any event, the psychological and sabotage offensive in the United States and Latin America will be timed to coincide with, or anticipate by a few weeks the height of the military offensive.

Fifth Column Must Be Stifled

We must be especially prepared to stifle the fifth columnists in the United States who will try to sabotage not merely our war material plants, but even infinitely more important, our minds. We must be prepared for the worst kind of fifth column work in Latin America, much of it operating through the agency of governments with which the United States at present is at peace. When I say this, I recognize that the peoples, both of Latin America and of the nations supporting the agencies through which the fifth columnists work, are overwhelmingly on the side of the democracies. We must expect the offensive against us on the military propaganda and sabotage fronts, both in the United States and in Latin America, to reach its apex some time during the next few months.

The convulsive efforts of the dying madman will be so great that some of us may be deceived into thinking that the situation is bad at a time when it is really getting better. But in the case of most of us, the events of the next few months, disturbing though they may be, will only increase our will to bring about complete victory in this war of liberation. Prepared in spirit, we can not be surprised. Psychological terrorism will fall flat. As we nerve ourselves for the supreme effort in this

hemisphere we must not forget the sublime heroism of the oppressed in Europe and Asia whether it be in the mountains of Yugoslavia, the factories in Czechoslovakia and France, the farms of Poland, Denmark, Holland and Belgium, among the scenes of Norway, or in the occupied areas of China and the Dutch East Indies. Everywhere the soul of man is letting the tyrant know the slavery of the body does not end resistance.

No Half Measures—Complete Victory

There can be no half measures. North, South, East, West and Middle West—the will of the American people is for complete victory.

No compromise with Satan is possible. We shall not rest until all the victims under the Nazi and Japanese yoke are freed. We shall fight for a complete peace as well as a complete victory.

The people's revolution is on the march, and the devil and all his angels cannot prevail against it. They cannot prevail, for on the side of the people is the Lord.

"He giveth power to the faint; to them that have no might He increaseth strength. . . . They that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint."

Strong in the strength of the Lord, we who fight in the people's cause will not stop until that cause is won.

Scoop!

The Electrical Union News is big time now. It's actually beaten the big newspapers to the punch. It's scooped the rest of the press by no less than a month.

Vice-President Wallace made a remarkable speech on May 8, but, believe it or not, the regular newspapers somehow weren't in on the story—one of the biggest of the year. Impossible, you say. But how else can you explain the fact that the press, with a battery of reporters and news services always on tap did not print the great speech of the Vice-President of the United States?

In one month the newspapers do not seem to have been able to lay hands on the sure-fire story that everybody was waiting to read: BUT . . . The Electrical Union News got the whole works down to the last syllable and published it for its readers. Ain't that something?

Oh! Did we hear some nasty person say that maybe the newspapers had the story all the time but didn't want to print it because it would wise up the people? How dare anyone make such accusations against our free and impartial press!

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Talking Shop

By LEO JANDREAU

Racial and National Antagonisms Breed Disunity

About a week or so ago two young men in one of the buildings in the plant got into an argument. Before long one of the men called the other a name, insulting his nationality. A fight followed with one of the combatants ending up with a broken jaw. Here is a case of two union members who have a common struggle ahead of them—a struggle for the preservation of the rights of free men—piling into each other instead of seeking ways of cooperating.

What is most serious is that the cause of the fight is exactly the thing we as a nation are fighting against. Doesn't it seem a little ridiculous for two men building the materials to smash discrimination and persecution to be following in the footsteps of the ones we are fighting?

Race Theories Propaganda of Workers' Enemies

When a person adopts an attitude of superiority over another person's race or nationality or religion, he is simply acting as a Charlie McCarthy for those people who stand to gain by the disunity of the workers. And . . . you know by now whom we mean. It stands to reason that in any line of work we're going to meet up with people of different racial or national or religious extraction. In fact, anywhere in America we're going to meet up with the same people. The long and short of it is that America would not be America without all these different kinds of people. Take away the Irish, the Italians, the Poles, the Russians, the Jews, the Negroes, the Lithuanians, etc., and what do you have left? Certainly not the United States. We, as representative Americans, and as members of an organization fighting for the benefit of all, have to stick together or we go under. Fighting among ourselves is exactly what our enemies want us to do. Since when do we bite on such easy bait?

Discrimination Hurts National Unity

When we object to working with this person or that person because of his race or nationality, we are only following Hitler's line. In these days when the unity of the American nation must be on a 100% basis, indulging in Negro discrimination or any other kind of discrimination serves only to split our ranks. We must not believe the vicious propaganda of our enemies that any one type of people are any better or worse than we are. The CIO has adopted the position that there can be no discrimination whatsoever because of race, nationality or religion.

Ball Team Sets Fine Example

The Union baseball team, the CIO Americans, is an outstanding example of democracy at work—a team composed of not only different nationalities but also of Negro and White. If the ball players can do it, certainly every worker in the plant should realize the necessity of getting rid of narrow prejudices put into his head by those fascist-minded forces that want America divided.

Capitol District Labor Forum

Talks on Wallace's Speech

The highlights of Vice-President Wallace's speech which has been published complete in the Electrical Union News was the subject of last Sunday's discussion on the weekly Labor Forum broadcast on Station W47A of the Capitol Broadcasting Co.

The discussion for the most part centered around the fight for freedom from want as a guarantee of true democracy. The importance of the common people taking the leadership after the war was stressed.

The speakers on the Forum were Prof. Douglas Campbell and Mr. Joseph Rotundo of Union College; Sal Vottis, President of the Capitol District Council, and Eric Strong of Local 301.

Transmitter 89 Meets On Re-Evaluation

In order to solve the problem of re-evaluation of jobs in Transmitter 89, the entire building, men and women workers alike, are meeting every week until a satisfactory result is obtained. Along with the expansion of this section of the works important changes are being made in production methods. The entire assembly is being changed over onto conveyors with a good deal of confusion and price changing.

The major difficulty at present centers around the placing of women on the conveyors alongside of men at reduced rates of pay. The problem settles down to the question whether the new set-up is men's work or women's work. It seems clear that there can be no such differentiation on the conveyor. Then why the differential in pay? Transmitter hopes to establish a policy on this vital matter soon, and perhaps go a long way toward the settlement of the pay differential issue.

Union Aids Vocational School Training

Local 301 is now cooperating with the vocational schools in building classes from men and boys who want to advance themselves in their work. The vocational schools have called upon the Union to recommend likely students for the courses and to assume some of the responsibility for the training of its membership.

To Be Responsible for Placement

All workers who are at present working on low rated jobs and who are seeking an opportunity to be up-graded should immediately contact their committeemen. The Union is not only pushing the training of these low paid workers but is also shouldering the responsibility of getting them placed when they have shown satisfactory completion of the required courses. The schools are asking for students; the company is asking for trained workers. Now is the time to seize the opportunity.

Bridges Ouster Move Threat To Unity

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his leadership of the Calhoun CIO, has taken a leading position in the institution of production councils with some remarkable results. And finally, wasn't it Bridges who fought for years against the shipment of scrap iron and good special aeroplane oil to Japan when some of our most respectable people were laughing at the idea of our ever getting into a fight with the Japs? AND BRIDGES IS CALLED AN ENEMY OF THE U. S.!

Bridges has committed only two "crimes". One has been to win the best possible working conditions for the workers on the Coast in the face of violent anti-labor activity. The other has been to expose some of our native fascists, stepping on some very sensitive toes in the process.

Biddle's action can only split the unity of the American people—a unity that took so long and so much to achieve. The Australian government has said that Bridges would be perfectly welcome to carry on his activities there. Supply Minister J. A. Beasley stated, "Another country's court decisions regarding the desirability of any Australian cannot be regarded as acceptable to the Australian viewpoint. . . . Bridges might conceivably be the greatest social reformer ever seen here."

Bulletins From The Labor Front

Rents Pegged in 20 Areas

Price Administrator Leon Henderson ordered housing rents reduced in 20 of the nation's most important war production and military training areas. The orders, which went into effect June 1, restore rents to the levels prevailing as far back as January, April and July of 1941.

CIO Wins U.S. Steel Poll 16 to 1

PITTSBURGH (FP)—The United Steel Workers (CIO) has so far won NLRB elections at 84 plants of U.S. Steel subsidiaries, scoring a total of 48,184 votes as against 3,781 for union. Elections at other U.S. Steel subsidiaries were scheduled for June 5 and 11.

Michigan Court Orders Equal Pay For Women

LANSING, MICH. (FP)—Back wages totalling \$55,690 were awarded by State Circuit Judge Charles H. Hayden under the Michigan law requiring equal pay for equal work without discrimination "on the basis of sex only."

Union Security Wins at Harvester

CHICAGO (FP)—A union security poll at eight plants of the International Harvester Company, first to be conducted by the National War Labor Board, showed 91% favoring maintenance of membership in the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Comm. (CIO) and AFL federal locals.

Conversion Slowdown Charged to GM

DAYTON, O. (FP)—General Motors Corporation has been conducting a deliberate slowdown in conversion at its Frigidaire plant in hopes of making profits both on civilian and war production now and of getting the jump on refrigerator competitors at the end of the war, according to a charge made by Chairman Marvin Vinard of the Montgomery County Industrial Union Council in behalf of Local 801, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) which has a contract in the plant.

U.E. Urges All-Labor War Conference

NEW YORK (FP)—A Win-the-War conference of delegates from all CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhood unions was proposed May 31 to the CIO Executive Board of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers.

High Voltage

Some American newspapers have been saying the past few weeks: "Let's wait and see where Hitler will strike first." Evidently, the Red Army isn't on the mailing list of these papers.

Come to think of it, some of our more prominent newspapers support the war effort like the rope supports a man to be hanged.

After he gets through tearing his hair over his parting at Khatkov and the moon at Colono, Hitler can console himself with his newest favorite in literature: Biddle's report on Harry Bridges.

After complaining about an unusually cold winter on don unusually muddy spring, Hitler is now bellyaching about an unusually hot summer. One thing we know is that he's heading for one terrible fall.

Open up the Western Front and catch Hitler comin' and goin'.

We understand that Hitler ordered the Vichy government to promise our State Department that it wouldn't take orders from Hitler.

The Japs probably want to know where he gets that "Doolittle" stuff. As far as they're concerned he "dooloodammuch".

We see where General Motors has been doing some deliberate stalling in the conversion of its Frigidaire plant. How about putting the heat on Frigidaire to freeze out the nazis?

Which reminds us that there are still some people that are more interested in dividing up profits than dividing up a Nazi.

ORIGINAL TORN