

NEW YORK FEDERATION OF LABOR ENDORSES FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT; BARS REDS AND NAZIS FROM OFFICE

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y.—The New York State Federation of Labor, in one of the greatest conventions of its history, voted to endorse President Roosevelt for re-election and to exclude Communists, Nazis and Fascists from seeking or holding office in the Federation.

The convention condemned the Federal anti-trust prosecutions of labor organizations and called upon the Government "to put an immediate stop to these attacks which have served only to bring about undesired and unjustified shame to the labor movement and which can have only the effect of destroying the standards of the building trades workers."

Among the speakers at the convention were President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, of the American Federation of Labor; Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Mayor La Guardia, Senator Mead and a large number of other public officials.

President Green declared that organized labor will oppose conscription until such time as the voluntary system of recruiting men for military service proves inadequate. The only persons now opposing the defense program, he said, were the supporters of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. He emphasized that the AFL was "uncompromisingly behind the President of the United States" in support of national defense, and added: "All that we ask in return is that the standards that have been set up as a result of our efforts—the wage-hour act, the Wagner act, the Walsh-Healey act, social security laws, unemployment relief and vocational education—that none of these standards shall ever be lowered."

Mr. Meany urged labor to cooperate in the defense program and to be prepared to make sacrifices. Above all, he added, "we must protect and maintain the gains labor has made in the legislative field in the last sixty years."

The convention proclaimed its solidarity with the organized workers of Great Britain in their struggle to defeat Hitlerism.

Speaking for 1,300,000 unionists in this State, the convention addressed a formal cablegram to the British Trade Union Congress, through Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labor in the Churchill Cabinet, pledging the full moral support of the workers of New York in Great Britain's contest with Germany.

A Labor Day Message To White Collar Workers

By FRANK WEIKEL, President

American Federation of Office employees International Council

Labor Day, 1940, should be a day long to be remembered by the millions of White Collar Workers in the United States. It should be something more than a day of celebration in retrospect. It should be the day of awakening the day of realization that Labor gains have come through organization and affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

On this official holiday in honor of Labor throughout our Nation, the White Collar Workers including bank employees and insurance agents, should definitely consider the many gains and improvements now enjoyed by their fellow workers and dedicate themselves to the proposition that if they wish to enjoy these same things for themselves they must take the same course and organize into Unions in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

For many years these so-called white collar workers have not been union-conscious. They have regarded themselves as rugged individualists and have felt secure in their ability to gain for themselves all that they wanted in the way of improved working conditions. The events of the past few years have exploded this theory as false and without tangible results. Employers have taken advantage of this philosophy and as a result the White Collar Workers of the nation today are a sorry lot. They have suddenly come to the realiza-

tion that all of their previous theories and ideas cannot cope with the modern industrial scheme. They now find that they are hopelessly lost in the modern maelstrom and as a result have suffered and are suffering from low wages and no consideration from management. Their voice of protest as individuals cannot be heard today.

So on this sacred memorial day, the hosts of office employees should take a solemn vow to overcome the handicaps under which they are now shadowed and pledge themselves to organize immediately. Time and experience have surely proven that the only ray of hope they have is by being affiliated with a strong A. F. of L. Union. The American Federation of Office Employees International Council stands ready to help. The answer is up to the millions of White Collar Workers themselves.

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