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A Recent Monthly Meeting of the Allied Printing Trades Council

DEMOCRATIC UNIONS ASK AID OF EUROPEAN BUREAU

By ADRIENNE TASSLER
 European Correspondent for the
 AFL News Service

Brussels.—Leaders of hundreds free trade unions in Europe look to the AFL's European Bureau in Brussels, Belgium, for encouragement, advice—and, at times, assistance.

Hungry for news about the United States and especially its labor movement, unionists from Greece to Finland consistently pour information-seeking letters into the bureau at 33 Avenue de L'Armee. They write in German, Dutch, Flemish, Hungarian, French and Italian.

Most often they seek news about American labor, heretofore extremely limited—although propaganda about Russia has flooded the continent. They ask for the "News Letter," a mimeographed information bulletin released by the AFL here, for pamphlets on typical American trade unionists, for statistics on wages and prices in the U. S.

Each month dozens of requests arrive for Irving Brown, the AFL's European representative, to address union meetings. He has spoken in virtually every European country except Spain. And he has

been asked by scores of newspapers and magazine publishers here to supply them with articles on trade unionism in America.

An official of the Federation of Finnish Trade Unions, for example, wrote:

"In view of the fact that the writer has no other contacts with the American trade union movement, I have ventured to approach you with certain information and certain wishes on my own part."

A spokesman for the Greek Federation of Labor wrote:

"We have had the chance to read a very interesting pamphlet written by you, entitled 'The American Syndicates and the International Problems' and we avail ourselves to the opportunity to request you to obligingly forward to us your pamphlets so as to be able to follow your movement."

"We should also be obliged to be informed if we could have your permission to translate and publish the chief chapters of the above-named book so that your ideas may be followed by a greater number of Greek syndicalists. . . . It would, also, be very comforting to us to be advised of the good intentions of the American syndicates for the amelioration, on a European and international scale, of the Greek syndicalist position."

A Belgian lawyer asked: "Could you send me the full text of President Truman's message to the AFL annual convention? . . ."

The secretary general of the Metal Workers Union, affiliated with Force Ouvriere, a free French trade union, wrote to thank Brown for 6 typewriters "put at our disposal by the AFL. . . ."

Austrian workers appealed to the European bureau for financial assistance to rebuild a rest home which was destroyed during the war. One of them wrote:

"We know there are more important matters in the world than this relatively little one . . . but it means not little for these people who have resisted Russian aggression and infiltration with admirable tenacity. . . ."

Do You Know . . . ?

—That, throughout its 67-year history, the American Federation of Labor has been the most powerful, the most consistent foe of Communism in America?

That before the turn of the century, Samuel Gompers, founder of the AFL, resisted all Red encroachment efforts?

That, in 1920, the AFL monthly magazine ran a cartoon showing "Commies" being booted out of a building labeled "A.F. of L."?

That, in 1933, the Federation officially opposed American recognition of Soviet Russia as a dictatorship with slave labor, as the antithesis of all that America cherishes (and long before World War II, recognized and disclosed the Hitler menace, and opposed shipment of scrap iron to Japan)?

That William Green, president of the AFL, recently said: "Communism is a curse upon humanity which degrades the citizen into the status of a slave and makes the state his master."

That credentials committees at AFL conventions carefully search out any Communists who have evaded detection, and refuse to seat them?

The Golden Rule of Trade Unionism is to buy Union Label goods from others as you would have them pay Union wages unto you!

FOREIGN AID BUYING TOPS 5 BILLION LEVEL

Washington.—Foreign aid purchases totaling \$5,498,187,000 have been authorized under the Marshall Plan, the Economic Cooperation Administration announced.

Some \$306,067,000 in procurement authorizations were granted during the week for finished goods and such raw materials as metals, oil, chemicals, machinery and foodstuffs. These recent buying-order approvals were issued to Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, the American, British and French zones of Germany; Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Indonesia, Holland, Norway, Trieste and Britain.

U. S. HOMES STILL LACKING IN MODERN CONVENIENCES

Washington.—Despite the nation's high standard of living, about one-third of the homes in the United States lack either cooking equipment, a kitchen sink, or a bathtub-shower, the Census Bureau reported.

In cities, only 2 out of 10 living quarters lack all 3 conveniences, the bureau said. In rural nonfarm areas, the ratio is 4 out of 10, and in farm areas 7 out of 10.

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