

UNION PRESIDENTS DISCUSS POINT



Herman Winter (left), president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union and chairman of committee of adjustment at the 68th AFL convention, discusses a point with James M. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters.

CEMENT WORKERS GIVE \$3,100 TO LLPE



George Meany (left), secretary-treasurer of the AFL and Labor's League for Political Education, receives check for \$3,100 for the league from President William Schoenberg of the Cement Lime and Gypsum Workers Union during St. Paul convention.

GREEN CONGRATULATES HUMPHREY ON SPEECH



AFL President William Green (right) congratulates Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, great Minnesota liberal, on fighting call to action made to 68th convention at St. Paul.

JUDGES PICK WINNER OF CLERKS' CONTEST



Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Action, and AFL President William Green, both seated, pick entry of Don Beverige, East St. Louis, Ill., as winner of readers' contest conducted by "The Advocate," official publication of the Retail Clerks International Association. Looking on are Retail Clerks' President, Vernon Houswright and Secretary-Treasurer James A. Suftridge.

MAINE PRES. SWAPS VIEWS WITH BRICKLAYER



President Benjamin Linsky of the Maine Federation of Labor swaps views with John J. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, at St. Paul convention.

Meany Urges 3-Point Action Program To Counteract Drive of Labor's Foes

St. Paul. — AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany called upon organized labor to adopt a three-point program to safeguard its freedom, its standards and its very existence from the concentrated onslaughts of the enemies of progress.

In a stirring address before the annual convention here of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, Mr. Meany urged:

1. Intensified effort by labor in the political field with victory in the 1950 congressional elections as its immediate objective, but with permanent political power for labor as an essential long-range goal.

2. Broadened educational and publicity programs by labor to counteract and offset the vicious propaganda campaign, nationwide in extent, which big business is carrying on against labor and against everything for which labor stands.

3. Organization of all unorganized workers so that labor's strength will be able to prevail over any employer opposition.

Highlighting the department's convention was Mr. Meany's plain-spoken and blunt appeal for complete co-operation in the political field from a group which in the past has been reluctant to get too deeply involved in politics.

"Remember, the purpose of our enemies is to defeat us in the political field and then to clamp even more restrictive legislation upon us. We must meet that challenge. The building trades are the most important group in organized labor and they are the most important target of these attacks. Already, the building trades have felt the injurious effect of the Taft-Hartley Act. You must join in the fight to repeal it through political action. I urge your complete co-operation with Labor's League for political Education both nationally and locally."

Lashing out against newspaper, radio and magazine campaigns against labor, Mr. Meany charged that the current attack against "statism" and the "welfare state" are thinly disguised and indirect attempts to break down progressive programs operating in behalf of the nation's workers.

"What would they do away with?" he asked. Social Security? Federal aid to education? The GI bill of rights? They don't explain. They don't dare get specific.

"They forget that our democracy is based upon our constitution which set forth plainly that one of the basic purposes of our government is to promote the general welfare of the people."

Mr. Meany pointed out that the opponents of the "welfare state" never mention the huge amounts of federal aid extended to the nation's railroads, the airlines, the shipping industry and the farmers.

"But the minute the government steps in and spend government money to help the workers, we immediately hear protests and cries about the welfare state," Mr. Meany charged.

At the opening of the convention, Richard J. Gray, president of the department, declared that housing construction, already proceeding at a record rate, must be stepped up to an average of at least a million and a half units a year for the next ten years if the nation's acute need for new homes is to be met adequately.

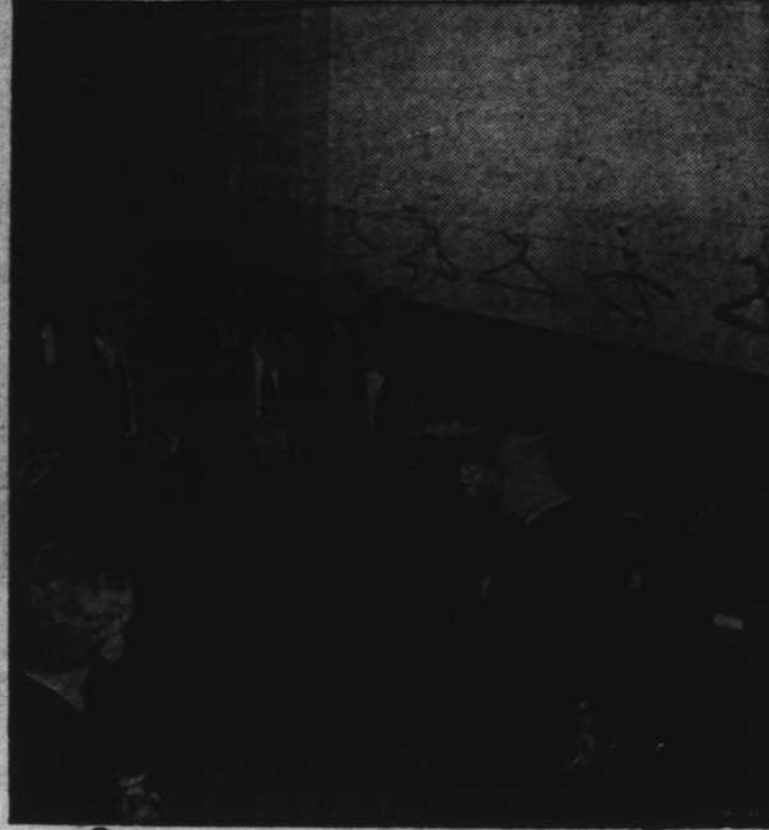
Rent controls are being undermined far and wide, he charged. Increases of as high as 380 percent have been imposed on tenants in some states and communities where all pretenses at continuing controls have been abandoned, he reported.

Mr. Gray also criticized the Army Engineering Corps for attempting to evade the Bacon-Davis Act provisions for payment of prevailing wage rates on military construction projects. Widespread wage-cutting has resulted, of the Labor Department's Bureau he said.

William F. Patterson, director of Apprenticeship Training, told the convention that despite wage expansion of apprenticeship training in the past few years, American industry "is replenishing its skilled forces at a rate of only 50 percent of its future needs."

Jess Larson, head of the General Services Administration, reported to the convention that the government has a backlog of 100

Hoffman Talks to Reporters at Convention



Paul G. Hoffman (in front of microphone), economic cooperation administrator, answers questions of newsmen from Washington, New York, Chicago and other cities covering St. Paul convention.

January Rallies Will Start Gompers Memorial Campaign

St. Paul. — The American Federation of Labor ordered a two-pronged drive for 1950 to organize a million new members and to repeal the Taft-Hartley law by electing a liberal Congress.

Winding up its 68th annual convention, the AFL welded this strong platform of action on the domestic front to a program of world action backing up the formation of a new democratic free international trade union organization and supporting a firm United States foreign policy to repel communism and fascism in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The convention sounded a cry for a new battle against the Taft-Hartley law. Its repeal was listed as the paramount issue of a broad 1950 platform. The convention's closing sessions brought these outstanding developments:

1. Plans to start in January a drive for a million new members as a tribute to Samuel Gompers, first AFL president, and to coordinate it with the political education campaign for repeal of Taft-Hartley and election of a liberal Congress.

2. Adoption of an international relations program supporting formation of a new free democratic world labor organization next month in London and urging against appeasement or communism and fascism anywhere.

3. Unanimous reelection of AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and all other members of the Executive Council.

4. Adoption of proposals to get the Senate to liberalize the social security bill passed by the House of Representatives; to get congressional enactment of a broad national health program, and repeal of taxes on sales, pay rolls, amusements.

5. A change in the convention meeting time to the third Monday in September annually and receipt of invitations to go to Houston, Texas; Cleveland, or Miami in 1950.

6. Speeches by Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson and Maritime Commission Chairman Philip Fleming, praising AFL cooperation in building the national defense. Both pledged continued cooperation with the AFL.

7. Endorsement of a shorter work week to spread jobs and reduce unemployment.

8. Further moves to induce the International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate with the AFL and to merge all organized labor under the AFL banner.

Link Drives as Memorial The convention undertook a drive for a million new members next year as a means of paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Gompers on the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1850. It directed "complete co-ordination of political activity with the expansion of organization among the unorganized."

"These two gigantic efforts," the convention said, "cannot help but increase the prestige and membership of the AFL and at the same

time protect the welfare and democracy of all organized workers." The AFL expressed disappointment with the failure of the 81st Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley law in accordance with the mandate given by the 1948 elections.

"If the 81st Congress persists in its refusal to act affirmatively," the convention said, "we are prepared again to take our appeal to the people of this country and to make Taft-Hartley repeal the paramount issue of the 1950 congressional election campaign.

"Though defeated in our first attempt because our adversaries had a few more votes in Congress than we, it is our determination

Firefighters President Admires Her Hat



John F. Redmon, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters, admires one of the seven hats worn to the St. Paul convention by Carmen Lucia, vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and advocate of intensive southern organizing campaign.

to redouble our efforts in wiping out this majority and elect to Congress men who will heed and carry out the will of the people. Borrowing a phrase from President Truman's message to this convention, 'Taft-Hartley repeal is America's unfinished business now, not the business alone of the labor movement, but that of every fair-minded citizen of our land.'

All Officers Re-elected President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and the 13 vice presidents were unanimously re-elected by acclamation.

In accepting election for the 28th time, Mr. Green recalled that when he first was called to head the AFL there were less than 2,000,000 members. He recounted the nation's cycle of wars and economic changes during which the AFL grew steadily to 8,000,000 members.

"The cause of labor is a religion to me," Mr. Green said. "I shall give in the future as in the past all I have, the best I have, and

my service for the good of labor." The 700 delegates gave him a standing ovation.

The election climaxed the highly successful convention featured by a succession of important speakers and a round of social affairs that took union officials into many affairs in St. Paul, Minneapolis and surrounding cities.

Weary delegates held a final night session to hammer out the final planks in the AFL's progressive 1950 platform. Here is a thumbnail summary of some of the more important actions:

Economic developments—Devaluation of the pound sterling by Great Britain and concurrent work stoppages in coal and steel industries in this country have occurred with unpredictable consequences but our free enterprise system can absorb shocks if free to readjust and plan new expansion.

National health insurance — It now appears that Congress may adopt certain portions of this program. (Continued On Page 5)

Drive in or park...



The Commercial National Bank DRIVE-IN BRANCH

135 West Morehead Street

CONVENIENT PARKING SPACE — is available on our own premises so that you can park and come into the modern, attractive lobby where writing desks are provided and where our tellers will handle your transactions.

THE DRIVE-IN TELLER'S WINDOW—makes it easy to do your banking quickly without getting out of your automobile.

ANY ACCOUNT AT THE DRIVE-IN BRANCH—is an account with the Commercial National Bank uptown. Any account with the Commercial National Bank is an account with the modern, convenient Drive-In Branch.

Ask Those We Serve

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK

Founded 1874

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM — MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION