

Leaders Honor Gomper's Friend

WASHINGTON.—AFL leaders paid tribute to the late A. P. Bower, 80, former president of the Cigar Makers International Union and long-time associate of Samuel Gompers, AFL founder.

Mario S. Appetta, who succeeded Mr. Bower as president of the cigar makers last January, represented the AFL at the funeral held in Reading, Pa. Mr. Bower died October 24.

"Mr. Bower was an associate of the great Gompers and they worked together on a number of occasions," Appetta official recalled. Mr. Gompers served as president of Cigar Makers' Local 144 in New York City and was second vice president of the in-

ternational union when he died in 1924.

Mr. Bower was president of the cigar makers from May 1944 to January 1949, serving the unexpired term of Ralph E. Van Horn of Michigan and a full four-year term of his own. He was vice president and education director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, a founder of the Berks County Tuberculosis Sanitarium, frequently a candidate for public office in Reading on the Socialist ticket. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.

PAY-RAISE PUT FIRST AT WESTINGHOUSE

WASHINGTON.—A wage increase retroactive to last May 1 was made the first demand for negotiation by the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 20 plants of Westinghouse Corp.

Electrical Workers President W. Tracy told Westinghouse that "our proposal of retroactive wage adjustments be placed first on the 14 49 agenda." He rejected the proposal of the company that the parties discuss a pension and hospitalization program as a basis for working out a 1950 contract.

"The IBEW has this year negotiated hundreds of contracts embracing wage adjustments in all segments of the electrical industry," Tracy said. "Most of these wage adjustments have been consummated with firms having a less favorable profit structure than the Westinghouse Corporation which has enjoyed for the first 9 months of 1949 the best financial period in its entire history."

He said the electrical workers will insist upon full settlement of their demands for an equitable wage increase, stabilization of employment based on payment of a yearly minimum of hours of work and an acceptable system of retirement, health, accident and death benefits retroactive to May 1, 1949.

NEIL MILLER ASSIGNED

PARIS.—Neil Miller, former editor of the AFL news service, has been assigned to assist the information activities of the Trade Union Advisory Council of the European Recovery Plan. Miller reported to the Paris office from Washington about mid-October.

Don't Underrate Your Plumber; He's Well Read

BY DAN SMYTH,
Chicago Correspondent for AFL
News Service

CHICAGO.—To most Americans, affected by the cartoon and movie comedy influence, the word "plumber" suggests an illiterate fellow in greasy overalls, with dirt under his fingernails, who shows up for work with all his tools except the right ones.

It would have been an eye-opener for them to have attended the fourth annual educational conference just concluded by the Plumbers Union, Local 130 (AFL), which represents 44,300 journeymen and apprentice mechanics in the Chicago area.

They would have seen several hundred neat and orderly gentlemen in business suits, who sat quietly through two days of up-to-date instruction in such subjects as U. S. social security, industrial law, the proposed new Chicago building code, new developments in land irrigation, sewage disposal, water purification and training of apprentices.

Each day was begun with prayer and a patriotic ceremony. At the close of the conference diplomas were awarded to 110 apprentices who had completed three years of training, and were eligible for journeyman status. The AFL endorses supplemental academic study for apprentices under the federal training program. The conference was held in the Plumbers Hall, a magnificent two-story building at 1340 W. Washington Blvd., wholly owned by the local, and free of lien. Among those who attended was Martin Kennelly, mayor of the city.

Carl B. Lindblad, president of the Plumbing Contractors' Association of Chicago, credited the union with leading organized labor in the construction field in the field of education. His group and the union negotiated a new contract last June, which raised the wage rate to \$2.45 an hour, highest ever paid to plumbers in this area. The plumbers also have a welfare and pension fund to which both the workers and the employers contribute.

Byron Dalton, head of the Chicago plasterers' union, another speaker, warned against the new building code which has been proposed before the Chicago City Council to replace the existing code.

The plasterers have led the fight against revision of the code, on the ground it would relax fire prevention measures, principally by allowing substitutes for plaster in walls and ceilings. But Dalton said the new code would hurt the plumbers too, as well as the public.

A management engineering firm engaged by the city administration to suggest streamlined methods of enforcing the code has proposed the 14 plumbing inspectors now employed in the city building department be replaced by all-round inspectors, who would examine electrical, sheet metal and other installations as well as plumbing.

If that happened, Dalton said, the experienced plumbers now doing the inspecting, would be replaced by college graduates with theoretical training but little practical knowledge of either plumbing, electricity or any other field of building construction.

PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR METAL WORKERS

WASHINGTON.—Prospects for regular employment in the nation's metal trade industries are good for some time to come.

James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Metal Trades department, carried that opinion to the third session of the Metal Trades Committee of the International Labor Organization scheduled for Geneva November 8 to 19.

Mr. Brownlow, American worker delegate to the meeting, is accompanied by Taylor T. Buchanan, Cincinnati, editor of the AFL Molders and Foundry Workers Journal, and George P. Delaney, AFL international representative.

DR. GUALTIERI DIES

NEW YORK.—Dr. Humberto Gualtieri, 47, secretary-treasurer of AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 102, died October 25 after a brief illness. He was the AFL candidate for the post of labor adviser in Rome to the Economic Cooperation administration.



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weeks only after five years' service.

ORGANIZE OFFICE WORKERS

NEW YORK.—The AFL Seafarers International Union is supporting the organization of the Steamship Office Workers Association among office and clerical workers of steamship companies here.

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