

## OHIO, INDIANA, SOUTH SET GOMPERS' RALLIES

### Green Given Place In New World Union

LONDON.—AFL President William Green was chosen a member of the top executive board of the new anti-Communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, were named alternates on the policy-making panel which will govern the confederation of 48,000,000 workers in 53 countries. Percy Bengough, president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, was named to the executive board.

As the new organization formally came into being, AFL Vice Presidents George George Harrison and David Dubinsky said that the main American objectives had been supported by the founding conference and are incorporated in the constitution.

The confederation pledged to fight for workers and against totalitarianism everywhere.

One article in the constitution which did not mention communism by name, called for establishment of a world system of collective security and urged support within the framework of the United Nations for measures against totalitarian aggression.

The confederation elected Paul Finet, of Belgium president, Dutch Delegate J. H. Oldenbroek of the International Transport Workers Federation as its first secretary general, selected Brussels as headquarters and named a 19-man executive board, including 2 Americans.

Green and Murray Elected. President William Green of the AFL and President Philip Murray of the CIO were elected to 2 of the 4 North American seats on the executive board. Their alternates are Mr. Meany and Mr. Brown for the AFL and James B. Carey and Elmer F. Cope for the CIO.

The constitution pledged the new confederation to:

1. Co-ordinate the defense of free trade unions against any campaign "aiming at their destruction or at the restriction of their rights," or at their subjugation "by totalitarian or other antilabor forces."
2. Establish a powerful international organization of free trade unions to promote the interests of working people throughout the world and "enhance the dignity of labor."
3. Assist in developing and fostering growth of trade unions in economically and socially undeveloped countries.
4. Work for full employment anywhere and aid the economic, social and cultural interests of countries suffering the after-effects of war.
5. Protect and expand the system of free labor everywhere and "eliminate forced labor everywhere."
6. Work for establishment of a world system of collective security, but, pending its attainment, to further and support within the U. N. charter all measures necessary

(Continued On Page 5)

### AFL Help Asked On New England Study

Washington.—The National Planning Association has asked the American Federation of Labor to join in a study and analysis of the effect of national policies on New England.

The AFL's New England regional offices have been invited to participate actively in the formation of the Committee of New England to make the analysis and recommend changes which may be needed to assure the area's full development along lines consistent with its own and the national interest.

The Planning Association said the work should be completed by the end of 1950.

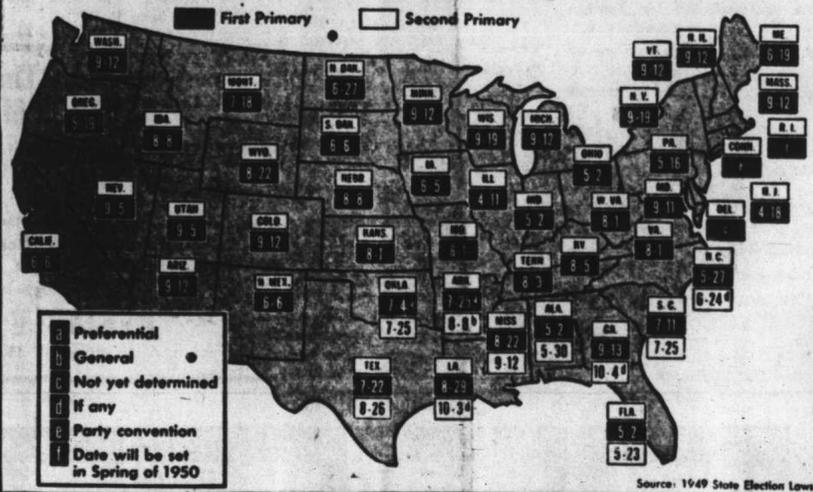
Formation of this special Committee of New England results from a request by the Joint Committee on the Economic Report of Congress that NPA initiate a co-operative project to report to the congressional committee on "The Impact of Federal Policies on the Economy of New England." The proposed report would be along lines similar to a special report prepared under the auspices of the NPA Committee of the South, which was issued as a joint committee print last July.

In accordance with NPA's established procedures, the committee members will be drawn from a cross-section of leaders from all parts of New England who are broadly representative of the area's varied interests—from agriculture, business and manufacturing, finance, labor, government, and the professions.

E. J. Coil, director of the National Planning Association, in announcing the plans for the Committee of New England, stressed that the success of such a study depends in large measure on the support and co-operation of the people of New England. He said:

"New Englanders themselves know they can best decide what they want, what they do not like, and to what extent they agree that federal action is helping or hindering their region's economic development."

### Dates of 1950 Primary Elections



### Devaluation Hikes Living Costs For Britain's Workers

BY ARTHUR DEAKIN.

General Secretary of Britain's Largest Trade Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

London.—Once again, in time of crisis, Britain's Trades Union Congress was called upon by the United Kingdom government to advise on the best way of reaching an agreement on wages policy with industry.

The TUC general council's decision recommending a still stricter policy of voluntary wage restraint, marks a courageous attempt to give an authoritative lead to Britain's trade union movement in the critical economic situation.

This decision resulted from TUC decisions which have been taking place since the pound sterling was devalued in September 1949.

The changed value of the pound created a new situation. The cost of living was bound to rise a few points—automatically raising those wage rates linked to the cost of living by sliding-scale agreements. It was also bound to increase rank and file pressure on other unions to urge new wage claims. Any general rise in wages, salaries, or profits, however, would raise labor costs and so defeat the main object of the currency change, making Britain's goods more competitive in North American markets.

Britain's government, therefore, approached the TUC with a view to ensuring wage stability through voluntary trade union co-operation. As a result, the TUC's general council has announced a 7-point policy statement, recommending wages stabilization in relation to the cost of living.

At present, the cost of living index in Britain is 112. It is proposed that all agreed wages in industry should remain fixed for 12 months up to January 1, 1951, providing that during that time the cost of living figure does not rise as high as 118 or fall below 106. If either of these contingencies should arise collective bargaining machinery could be set in motion so that unions could claim increased wages in relation to the increased cost of living, and unions which have sliding-scale agreements relating wages to the cost of living should also be entitled to claim increments due.

A 61-point rise in the cost of living would be equivalent to a 5 per cent reduction in wages.

However, the object of this policy is to stabilize prices and to prevent a rapid rise in the cost of living. At the same time, this policy preserves intact existing voluntary negotiation machinery for use in the event of a 6-point cost-of-living rise. Indeed, the policy statement insists that the existing machinery must be preserved as the only method of governing the adjustment of wages and working conditions, and maintaining the authority of the trade unions.

### AFL Workers Start White House Repairs



Washington.—Members of AFL building trades unions, erect name of their employer, successful bidder for the contract to reconstruct the foundation walls and interior of America's most coveted address. Other AFL workers were busy inside the presidential residence and putting up a high board fence which will hide the lower part of the White House from public view during the repair work.

### 4,000 Fishermen Zander Urges AFL Go AFL In South Spur Cooperatives

Biloxi, Miss.—One of the largest independent fishermen's organizations in the Gulf Coast area has affiliated with the American Federation of Labor through the Seafarers International Union.

J. L. Rhodes, AFL southern director, said it is the Gulf Coast Shrimpers' and Oystermen's Association, heretofore an independent association of fishermen operating along the Gulf Coast area of Mississippi, with headquarters at Biloxi, a branch office at Pascagoula, Miss., and a large hotel at Biloxi for the convenience of its members.

The association is completing its affiliation as rapidly as the change-over can be made. There are almost 4,000 members in the association and all of its members will be transferred to the Seafarers International Union in accordance with the affiliation agreement.

The Seafarers International Union chartered the Gulf Coast Shrimpers' and Oystermen's Association as a subordinate branch of the Seafarers International Union in the southern district.

Officers of the organization are Louis Simmons, president; Mackie Fountain, vice president; Charles Allen, secretary, and Leon Strong, treasurer.

Kansas City, Mo.—Arnold S. Zander, chairman of the AFL committee on co-operatives and president of State, County and Municipal Workers, said co-operatives stabilize farm income and protect the family farm.

He participated in a panel discussion at the 21st annual meeting of the Consumers' Co-operative Association. Other participants were Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan and Jerry Voorhis, secretary of the Co-operative League.

Reviewing the role of co-operatives in the British Isles in aiding the economic position of working people, Mr. Zander stressed the necessity for U. S. union members to spur the development of the co-operatives for their protection as consumers and as an aid to farmers.

Reporting that the consumers' co-operative association had started with \$3,000 in member capital in 1929, President Howard A. Cowden said:

"Today we have assets of \$49,000,000 and a members' equity of \$26,000,000. We serve nearly 400,000 farm and city people. If we achieve the same average rate of growth as European co-ops did from their 21st to 42d year, we will have quadrupled our volume and our membership, and multiplied our capital 10 times."

The Seafarers International representatives, U. C. Borsarge and Leon Neira, and Vice President Calvin Tanner.

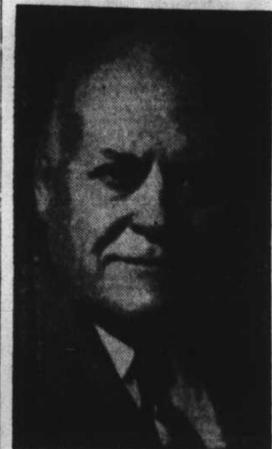
### States Start Organizing Drive For 1,000,000 More Members

WASHINGTON.—Harry O' Reilly, AFL director of organization, announced that state federations of labor are setting January dates for Samuel Gompers Memorial Organizing rallies in the drive for 1,000,000 new AFL members in 1950.

### Label Trades Head Is Critically Ill

I. M. ORNBURN.

Cornwall, N. Y.—Ira M. Ornburn, 60, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Depart-



I. N. ORNBURN

ment, is seriously ill in Cornwall Hospital.

Mr. Ornburn suffered a stroke and entered the hospital on Dec. 5. Dr. H. M. Gasparian, his physician, said that Mr. Ornburn is suffering also from "arterio-sclerosis."

Members of Mr. Ornburn's family were called to his bedside. Mr. Ornburn is a native of Moberly, Mo. He joined the International Union of Cigar Makers in 1908. He has been secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department for many years and is the founder of the Union Industries Show, the only labor-management show of its kind in the world.

### DEBALTA RESIGNS COURIER POSITION

Washington.—Stephen L. Debalta announced severance of his connection with the Trade Union Courier. He wrote to the AFL News Service:

"Following the denunciation in your Nov. 29 issue of the Trade Union Courier, published in New York, I feel compelled for my own protection to make it known through your columns that I have severed my connection with that publication on Oct. 15 and do no longer represent it here.

"Furthermore the Trade Union Courier is no longer represented in Washington and has no office here, despite the fact that it continues to carry on its masthead the address and telephone number of its former office."

Ohio will hold its rally Jan 21 and 22 in Columbus, Indiana will meet Jan. 28 and 29 in Indianapolis.

Southern states are setting dates to follow consecutively after each other in line with the recommendations of the successful 14-state southern organizing conference held in New Orleans.

The organizing rallies are the opening features of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year to be observed throughout 1950 by the American Federation of Labor in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founder and first president of the AFL.

The year will open with a national Gompers Memorial Dinner at Hotel Statler, Washington, on Jan. 5, in advance of the January 27 birthday of Mr. Gompers.

The 1,000,000 member organizing drive is linked in with efforts of AFL's Labor League for Political Education to elect a liberal Congress in the 1950 campaign.

### Supreme Court Says Local Option Rent Law Invalid

Washington.—The constitutionality of the 1949 federal rent control law was sustained by the Supreme Court recently in a brief order reversing the decision of a lower court. The ruling, unanimous and with Justice William O. Douglas not participating, upset a decision by Judge Elwyn R. Shaw in the Chicago Federal District Court. Judge Shaw had held the law invalid because a "local option" clause allowed states or cities to end or establish their own rent controls.

Judge Shaw construed this as an unconstitutional delegation of power by Congress. He found that it would not have passed the 1949 statute without this "local option" section, and consequently he held the whole act invalid.

The Chicago case arose when the Housing Expediter sued to stop Shoreline Co-operative Apartments, Inc., of that city from evicting tenants of a co-operatively owned apartment house. Under the law, tenants of a co-operative house cannot be ejected unless 65 per cent of them are stockholders. The expediter said that not that many lived in the building.

In appealing the Shoreline case to the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice said that about 14,000,000 housing accommodations remained under rent control in the country.

Tighe E. Woods, Federal House-

(Continued On Page 5)

### Sees U. S. Neglecting Its Musical Heritage

BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN.

New York Correspondent for AFL News Service.

New York.—Federal, state and local governments "should consider seriously what can be done to further the arts in our country." The proposal is made by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin in an exclusive article for the current "Alegro," monthly publication of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians.

"As a first step," he writes, "it might be advisable for leading groups in our midst to appoint a commission of outstanding citizens, specialists in the various arts, to examine the state of the arts in the United States and to make recommendations, after detailed study, to those in positions of influence and authority.

"In an investigation of this kind, I should like to see the status of the musicians, as a creative being, thoroughly studied. I know that organized labor, which would, of course, be represented on such a commission, would thoroughly support such a project."

The cabinet member declared that there is "insufficient encouragement given in our country to the development of our musical heritage," that musical talent in America "has little opportunity for creative employment" and that each year "potentially fine talents among our young men and women are driven away and discouraged."

"It seems to me that as a country we should devote more of our resources to maturing our human resources, not only physically but also spiritually and culturally. I think that we must in coming years seek out the talented youngsters—the potentially good artists, whether with pallet or piano, with chisel or camera—and encourage them, help them so that our country can materially contribute even more richly to the cultural growth of the democratic world."

### Union Label Drive Interests Britishers

Washington.—British trades unionists like the American Federation of Labor's campaign for the use of union labels on union made goods.

"The Town Crier," Birmingham, England, labor weekly, asked AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany for information on this practice.

"This sort of thing is not done very much over here," Editor D. Rhydderch of the paper told Mr. Meany. "We thought it would be a good thing to devote some attention to what is an admirable trade union practice.

"I would like to borrow one of the little blocks you always have on the front page of your Weekly News Service (Allied Printing Trades Council). This would be a useful example of what your unions do."

Mr. Rhydderch also requested a copy of the picture published by the News Service of the Glass Bottle Blowers and Retail Clerks Association exhibit at the St. Paul convention.

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, furnished a complete catalogue of union labels, a history of the union label campaign, copies of some of the labels and the News Service furnished the requests to make a sizeable packet of information for Mr. Rhydderch.

The moral of the story is: If the union label campaign has stirred so much interest in Birmingham, England, wouldn't it be timely to give a fresh boost to our campaign everywhere here at home?