

See Editorial On Page Four Regarding Labor Journal's "Endorsement"

Devoted to the interests of the A. F. of L. and the Working Man

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TRUMAN, BARKLEY HAIL GOMPERS' VISION PRESIDENT ASKS GOALS SUPPORTED BY AFL

Urges Congress Enact Housing, Security And Labor Measures

Washington.—President Truman asked the new session of the 81st Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley law, expand social security, enact housing, health and education measures to make these United States a happier land.

All of these goals are supported by the American Federation of Labor. The AFL is keeping close watch on how congressmen will vote on these major issues to determine who is deserving of the support of the 8,000,000 members when the November elections roll around.

Truman Program At Glance

- WASHINGTON**—President Truman asked major legislation to achieve many goals favored by the AFL in his annual state of the union message. Following are highlights:
- REPEAL THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW**—Replace it with a fair law. Establish a labor extension service.
- SOCIAL SECURITY**—Expand the program to provide higher benefits and greater coverage.
- HEALTH**—Establish a system of medical insurance which will enable all Americans to afford good medical care.
- EDUCATION**—Provide federal assistance to states for educational purposes.
- HOUSING**—Extend rent controls another year. Assist cooperatives and other nonprofit groups to build dwellings which middle-income families can afford.
- RESOURCES**—Approve St. Lawrence seaway and power project and the Columbia Valley Administration.
- MILITARY**—Continue selective service in this country. Support Atlantic defense plans.
- ECONOMIC**—Keep the European Recovery Program going without "crippling" cuts in funds. Pass pending measures to put into effect the Point Four program of American technical and financial aid to underdeveloped nations. Approve United States membership in international trade organization.
- TAXES**—"Make some changes in our tax system which will reduce present inequities, stimulate business activity and yield a moderate amount of additional revenue." Specific suggestions will be made shortly.
- BUSINESS**—"Close the loopholes in the antitrust laws so as to bar "monopolistic mergers." Promised proposals to assist small business and encourage new enterprise.
- FARM**—Pass the Brannan plan with its system of production payments; provide mandatory price supports for products which are major sources of farm income and are not adequately covered.

At the beginning of an optimistic 5,000-word speech, Mr. Truman said:

"Today, by the grace of God, we stand a free and prosperous nation with greater possibilities for the future than any people have ever had before in the history of the world."

He reviewed the United States' position in world affairs, the need for technical assistance for underdeveloped areas, continued aid to Europe, support for the United Nations, and he set our objective in the world as peace. After a reference to European aid, he said:

"It is more essential now than ever, if the ideals of freedom and representative government are to prevail in these areas, and particularly in the Far East, that their people experience in their own lives, the benefits of scientific and economic advances."

Mr. Truman said that at home "our country must be more than a land of opportunity for a select few; it must be a land of opportunity for all of us."

"In such a land we can grow and prosper together," Mr. Truman said.

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SHELLEY SWORN

Washington.—John F. Shelley, president of the California Federation of Labor, was sworn as congressman from California's 5th district at the second session of the 81st Congress began.

Mr. Shelley, 44, succeeded Rep. Richard J. Welch. He is one of several new House and Senate members successfully supported by the AFL in special elections for congressional office who took their seats for the first time on Jan. 3.

RENEW CONTRACT.

Portland, Ore.—Building trades unions have renewed their contract for one year until Dec. 31, 1950, holding the line on current wage rates and working schedules. Structural iron workers receive \$2.20 an hour, carpenters \$2.10 and laborers \$1.70 an hour.

Leaders Open Gompers Centennial



Washington.—Speakers at the Samuel Gompers Centennial Dinner opening a year-long celebration in honor of the AFL founder included, l. to r., AFL Vice-President Matthew Woll, Vice-President Alben W. Barkley, AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Mrs. Barkley sits next to the vice-president and Secretary of State Dean Acheson is at Mr. Meany's left.

Dinner Begins 100th Year Of Founders' Birth

Washington.—President Truman hailed Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor, as "the originator of the great movement which set labor free."

Mr. Truman spoke to more than 1,000 cheering listeners at the gala dinner opening the AFL's Gompers Centennial Year.

AFL leaders rededicated the 8,000,000-member organization to Mr. Gompers' principles and his drive to: "Agitate, educate and organize."

Mr. Truman headed a list of distinguished guests at the affair kicking off a year-long campaign to gain 1,000,000 new AFL members and elect a liberal Congress. The meeting was the first of a series at national, state and local levels in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers in London on Jan. 27, 1850.

Vice President Alben W. Barkley recalled many personal associations with Mr. Gompers. He said Mr. Gompers was "not only the leader of American labor but for labor throughout the world." He said that President Woodrow Wilson leaned heavily on Mr. Gompers for advice and help during World War I.

"The American Federation of Labor is the greatest bulwark against un-American influences in the country," Mr. Barkley said. He said he had helped repeal the one-sided railway labor act in the 1920s and pass the law which is still the basic railway labor law and is "not one-sided as the Taft-Hartley Act now is."

The vice president was accompanied by Mrs. Barkley. Three members of the executive council—the last to have served on that body when Mr. Gompers was AFL president—were seated at the speakers' table. They were AFL President William Green and Vice Presidents Matthew Woll and Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters' Union, biggest in the AFL.

Mr. Green and Mr. Woll in their speeches called for a rededication of the AFL membership to the principles and ideals of Mr. Gompers.

AFL Secretary Treasurer George Meany delivered the keynote remarks as toastmaster. He said the centennial celebration is "to focus the attention of the American people on the things for which the AFL and Samuel Gompers stand."

"Gompers left a great heritage, but he also left a great responsibility," Mr. Meany said. "I can assure you the present leadership of the American Federation of Labor will fulfill that responsibility."

"We expect to spell out Mr. Gompers' life in a series of meetings in all parts of this country to bring home the kind of man Samuel Gompers was."

Mr. Meany's introductions and

the speeches again and again brought the diners to their feet cheering and applauding.

Five members of President Truman's cabinet were present. They were Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan and Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

Chairman Elbert D. Thomas of the Senate Labor Committee, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, and Chairman John Lesinski of the House Labor Committee led large delegations from both houses of Congress.

In addition to Mr. Green, Mr. Meany, Mr. Woll and Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, other members of the AFL executive council at the head table were Vice Presidents George M. Harrison, W. C. Birtwhright, W. C. Doherty, David Dubinsky, Charles J. MacGowan, Herman Winter and Dan W. Tracy.

Invocation was offered by the Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, chaplain of the Senate, and the benediction by the Rev. Gerard F. Gates, dean of the graduate school of Georgetown University.

Hundreds of telegrams were received from government and AFL officials and unions throughout the country and from abroad, including the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

Simon Gompers, youngest brother of Samuel, wired from Norwalk, Conn., expressing his regret at his inability to attend. He is a member of the AFL Sheet Metal Workers.

Seated at a front table were Mrs. Samuel Gompers, Jr., daughter-in-law of the AFL founder; Mrs. McKay, a granddaughter, and Dr. J. Calvin McKay, great-grandson of Mr. Gompers.

Mr. Meany appointed Mr. Green and Vice Presidents Tobin and Harrison to escort Mr. Truman, "a great friend of the little people." Introducing Mr. Green, Mr. Meany said he "has carried on the work of the American Federation of Labor completely in keeping with the ideals laid down by Samuel Gompers."

Mr. Woll led the assemblage in a toast to Mr. Gompers and called for an annual celebration of Samuel Gompers' birthday on Jan. 27.

AFL Says Workers Need Substantial Raise In 1950 To Maintain Full Employment Levels



Washington.—Workers look forward to 1950 with much concern over the increase in unemployment which seems sure to develop, the AFL Monthly Survey believes.

Prospects for the first 6 months are fairly bright, but a slackening of industrial activity at least equal to that of last summer seems likely in the second half year.

To reach our national goal of maintaining "full" production and employment, demand for industry's products must increase enough each year to create jobs for all new workers joining the labor force and for those laid off by labor-saving devices. In 1947 and 1948 (and during the war) demand was ample to create these jobs and we had "full employment." Gross national product in 1947 and 1948 (shown on the chart) was the sum total of all products and services turned out by all industries at maximum employment levels. But in 1949, for the first time in 8 years, demand fell short, production dropped below "full employment" levels and unemployment rose by 1,300,000 (year's average). The chart shows the gap (dotted space) or shortage in demand in 1949, and the even larger gap in prospective demand for 1950. This gap means unemployment.

Prospects are bright for the first half year. Total business volume should about equal 1949 through

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Green Sees Growth In Gompers' Ideal; Woll Proposes An Annual Celebration

Washington.—AFL President William Green told the Samuel Gompers Centennial Dinner that the record of the AFL shows "there has been growth without change of purpose or goals" from the ideal of the founder.

Vice President Matthew Woll proposed that the nation annually set aside Jan. 27, birthday of Mr. Gompers, as a holiday.

Both officers interlaced their remarks with vivid personal recollections of Mr. Gompers and his principles.

Mr. Green and Mr. Woll are two of the three executive council members who served under Mr. Gompers. The third is Vice President Daniel J. Tobin, president, Teamsters' Union.

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Green Praises Clerks' 50 Years



Cincinnati.—AFL President William Green (center) praises AFL Vice-President George M. Harrison (left), president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and the clerks' union on the union's 50th anniversary. At the right is President M. W. Clement of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

(See Railway Clerks' story on Page 5)

Edwards On 8 Labor Stations

Washington.—Eight labor-owned radio stations are carrying the news commentary of Frank Edwards, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, Monday through Friday.

Edwards' program originates from Washington nightly Monday through Friday at 10 p. m. It is carried by 147 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System and the 8 labor-owned outlets, for a total of 155 stations in 35 states.

The 8 labor stations are WFDR, New York; WCFL, Chicago; KFMV and KWIK, Los Angeles; WVUN, Chattanooga; WDET, Detroit; WCUO, Cleveland; and WCFM, Washington.

The call letters of 6 Mutual stations were incorrectly listed in the news service of Dec. 23. Their correct listing is:

- WIDE, Biddleford, Maine, 10 p. m., M-W-F; WILH, Lowell-Lawrence, Mass., 10 p. m., M-W-F; WREX, Duluth, Minn., 9 p. m., M-W-F; WEBR, Buffalo, N. Y., 10 p. m., M-Th-F; WBPZ, Lock Haven, Pa., 10 p. m., M-W-F; KPND, Pampa, Texas, 9 p. m., M-W-F.

Labor paper editors are again urged to run the list of stations and time for Mr. Edwards' broadcast as a standing feature to serve AFL members and readers.

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