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New Stamp to Carry Gompers Likeness



Washington.—Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson announced that the new commemorative postage stamp in honor of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, will be in three-cent denomination, purple, will carry a likeness of Mr. Gompers and will be one of the "Famous Americans" series. Plans are to put the new stamp on sale here on the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, Jan. 27, 1950. Issuance of the stamp is one of the events marking the centenary of Mr. Gompers' birth to be carried on by the AFL throughout 1950.

Here's How To Get Gompers' Stamp

Washington—AFL stamp collectors and members who want copies of the new Samuel Gompers commemorative issue can obtain them by writing to the Postmaster, Washington, D. C.

The postoffice department announced that anyone desiring first-day cancellations of this new stamp may send as many as 10 self-addressed stamped envelopes to the postmaster at Washington, D. C., together with money order or postal note remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed.

The stamp honoring the AFL's founder and first president will be purple and printed in sheets of 70. It will be placed on sale for the first time on the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth on January 27, 1950.

The stamp is 0.85 by 0.98 inches (Famous American size) in dimensions, arranged vertically. The central design is a portrait of Mr. Gompers, framed by a border of colonial design with a spray of laurel leaves over the lower left portion. Below the portrait is the name "Samuel Gompers" in white Gothic on a dark background. The denomination "3 c" in the same style appears in the lower right corner. Above the portrait in dark Gothic is the wording "United States Postage."

AFL SAYS WORKERS NEED RAISE IN 1950

(Continued From Page 1)
 May or June of 1950. But this will not be enough to expand production and create jobs for new workers, so unemployment in the first half year will edge upward, exceeding 1949 by perhaps a million. A down trend is likely in the second half of 1950.

The prospective business decline after mid-1950 is a challenge to management and labor to find a solution without an increase in government spending. It will test the ability of our free enterprise system to maintain "full" production and employment. Our economy is strong and healthy. Reserves of buying power are large, in personal savings, and undistributed profits of the corporations; business working capital is strong.

We face in 1950 not a depression, but another business readjustment which need not be disruptive if we take the right steps to meet it. Several constructive developments are possible. A gradual price decline will release more buying power; continued spending by business to improve equipment would main-

tain employment and increase productivity; reduction in the many taxes paid by consumers would enable them to buy more of the durable goods they want and need. We do not attempt here to list other proposals. A constructive program could only be worked out by competent representatives of management, labor and other groups. We, do, however, make the following suggestion to our own membership:

A large increase in workers' buying will be essential in 1950. If every worker in the U. S. could receive a 10-cent wage increase, some \$8,000,000,000 would be added to consumer buying power, nearly all of which would immediately be spent for living necessities. This would be enough to reverse the prospective downward trend of business and start a rise. But with lower profits in prospect for 1950, many companies would hesitate to give such increases unless earned by reducing costs.

Most American managements have never seriously tried to cooperate with unions by submitting cost data and assuring union members of a fair share in the saving that could be made by joint effort to reduce costs. Some amazing results could be accomplished if workers were given week by week cost records, so they could see the results of their efforts, and management agreed to share the savings with them, determining the just wage increase by collective bargaining negotiations.

At least a goal could be set of 7, 10 or 15 cents more in wages through cost reduction. If management recognized the need for an immediate increase in workers' buying power and agreed to such a program of cooperative effort to raise wages, the battle against business recession would be well on the way to victory. It is clear of course that wages must be raised without causing a general increase in living costs.

DUTCH UNIONS ASK A UNITED EUROPE

New York.—Dutch trade unionists endorsed a United States of Europe or, at least, an economic union of the nations of western Europe to promote industrial recovery there.

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feted at a luncheon by national AFL officials in Washington and entertained by other AFL groups in Pittsburgh, Detroit, New York, Chicago and elsewhere. D. W. Ormel, secretary of the Christian National Trade Union, told reporters that all Europe must be integrated economically so that products might be as freely exchanged among the nations there as among the states in America, without tariffs or quotas. His colleagues agreed.

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