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RAISE LOW INCOMES THROUGH ORGANIZATION

Georgia Federation Of Labor Opens Gompers Centennial Campaign

Washington.—Georgia Federation of Labor opened the nationwide series of state meetings marking the start of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year drive for 1,000,000 new AFL members and election of a liberal Congress.

Mr. O'Reilly attended the January 7-8 meeting fresh from the huge Samuel Gompers Memorial Dinner here.

Green Says New Housing Bill Aid To AFL Families

Washington.—AFL President William Green said that the new cooperative housing amendment introduced at the start of the present session of Congress paves the way for decent housing for thousands of American families in the moderate income group.

Mr. Green said in a statement: "The introduction by Senator Maybank and Representative Spence of the cooperative housing amendment to the Middle Income Housing bill paves the way for providing decent homes for thousands of American families in the so-called moderate income group."

"This new amendment, which represents a modified version of the cooperative housing section of the middle income housing bill now before the Congress, will set up a vigorous new housing program for middle income families."

"At its last convention the American Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed the cooperative housing program for middle income families. We were most pleased when President Truman in his State of the Union message urged prompt enactment of the cooperative housing program."

"The American Federation of Labor strongly endorses the cooperative housing amendment which has now been introduced."

Texas Federation Marks 50th Year

Austin, Tex.—The Texas State Federation of Labor observed its 50th anniversary on Jan. 15.

The Federation was formed Jan. 15, 1900 in Cleburne with Brother F. N. Graves presiding over 20 delegates representing 8,475 members.

"On the federation's 50th anniversary we feel quite sure that the increase in membership and prestige is far beyond the dreams and expectations of those few individuals who were so far-sighted and wise enough to organize the great federation which annually brings together over 500 delegates," Executive Secretary Paul C. Sparks said in his monthly report.

During its golden anniversary year, the Texas Federation will play host to the 70th AFL convention at Houston next Sept. 18, climaxing the AFL's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers.

The Texas Federation has called its state-wide organizing and political rally to be held Friday, Jan. 27, the anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birthday at Austin.

An intensive drive is being made to see that every member of organized labor pays his poll tax in Texas before the Jan. 31 deadline.

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.

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

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.

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



New Stamp to Carry Gompers Likeness



Washington.—Postmaster General Jesse M. Donahoe 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.

Buy a year's supply of Samuel Gompers stamps! That is the suggestion to AFL local unions and members made by AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

His proposal is endorsed by AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and other AFL officials.

"By buying a year's supply of stamps and using them on all mail, AFL members and unions can keep the centennial celebration of Samuel Gompers' birth alive throughout 1950," Mr. Doherty said.

The Post Office Department said that 112,000,000 of the stamps will be printed in the first run. They will be sold for the first time on Jan. 27, the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, in Washington only. Later they will be sold by all of the more than 40,000 post offices across the country.

More than 400,000 requests for first-day covers have been received by postal authorities. Appropriate first-day ceremonies with AFL President William Green and government officials participating are being planned.

New Senators Sworn As Congress Opens



Washington.—As the 81st congress began its final session, Vice-President Alben W. Barkley (left) congratulated, l. to r., newly-sworn Senators Herbert H. Lehman of New York, backed by the AFL in his successful bid for election; William Benton of Connecticut, and Harry Darby of Kansas. Sen. Darby is a Republican, the others Democrats.

Washington.—The AFL told Congress that the nation's low-income workers can improve their lot by organizing into labor unions.

George D. Riley, AFL national legislative representative, so advised the joint committee on economic report studying low-income families. He said the AFL "takes strenuous issue with the do-nothing attitude" of people who say nothing can be done for the low-income groups or who argue that "the poor are always with us."

More than one-third of the nation's non-farm families receive less than \$2,000 a year. family incomes to meet living costs and government taxes.

"Organized labor is convinced that something can be done to improve the conditions of low-paid workers because that is exactly what labor unions have been doing for the last 100 years," Mr. Riley said.

"The experiences of our affiliated international unions tell us that many workers are low paid not because their productivity is low but because their bargaining power is weak," he said. "Only through union organization can workers in low-paid jobs find a way to obtain the collective strength necessary if they are going to bargain with their employers on an equal basis."

Mr. Riley said that the Taft-Hartley law threatens this long-established AFL policy that "union organization is the primary method whereby workers can raise their living standards."

"The Taft-Hartley law has prevented our unions from carrying forward effectively their organizing programs," Mr. Riley said. "Unless this law is repealed, there is grave danger that the efforts of organized labor to eliminate poverty will be completely frustrated."

In addition to repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Riley recommended that Congress widen the coverage of the minimum wage law, broaden social security coverage and increase the amount of benefit payments under social security and unemployment compensation; enact health insurance, federal aid to education and special measures to help apprentice-training, handicapped and older workers, members of minority groups and farm laborers.

"The AFL," Mr. Riley said, "finds no difficulty in suggesting who shall participate in a better income. The answer is 'everybody,' including the low-income families who still are lowest on the totem pole of our national economy."

A subcommittee of the congressional joint committee reported late last year that one-third of the nation receives incomes of less than \$2,000 a year. It said they "have been left behind in the economic progress of America."

More than 8,000,000 incomes are under \$1,000 a year and another 7,500,000 under \$2,000 annually.

Washington.—The first of 16,000,444 checks for the \$2,800,000,000 National Service Life Insurance special dividend will be mailed January 16, Veterans Administration announces.

The mailing operation will be done by the disbursing office of the U. S. Treasury. The goal is to mail 200,000 checks daily each week, or a total of 1,000,000 checks weekly.

Vets Checks Ready

Washington.—The Textile Challenger, published by the AFL United Textile Workers, celebrated its fifth anniversary in January 1950. Edited by Ben Haskel, The Challenger has won many prizes for editorial excellence.

Bakery Workers Win Rose Parade Award

Pasadena, Calif.—This float entered in the Rose Parade by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union of the AFL won an award of merit. Lee Roy Ivy of Bakers Local 37 (left) and Paul Jerns, assistant director of the Baking Industry Council of Southern California, hold the American flag.

Sun Hurls Last Lie As It Stops Breathing

SUN HURLS LAST LIE... G.55 BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN New York Correspondent for AFL News Service.

New York.—The New York Sun, an ultra-rightist, violently anti-labor journal, died last week after living to an overripe old age of 117 years.

Death came after a long coma. Post-mortem diagnosis of the vital organs revealed it had died during a cataleptic seizure, chronic hardening of the arteries, poor circulation, and ulcerated stomach walls caused by too long brooding over the passage of the 1909 income tax amendment to the Constitution.

The passing of the New York Sun was not a pretty sight because with its last death-rattle it gasped out an accusation that New York's trade unions had killed it and then its wizened little heart gave out. Its last will and testament—or perhaps better yet, its suicide note—makes it difficult to speak good about it, as one should about the dead.

The Sun has been sold to the Scripps-Howard New York World-Telegram; rather what was sold was its name and—God save the mark!—its "goodwill"; that's what it said. The likelihood that the cause of labor liberalism will be the gainer by the Sun's sale to the Scripps-Howard interests are remote at this writing unless Roy Howard, the newspaper chain's boss, is suddenly victimized by a Pauline vision, a prospect even more dimly remote.

But forevermore in the newspapers of this land will be enshrined the myth that labor killed a New York newspaper. As so often in life the Sun lied about labor—so, in death, the Sun uttered the same obscene untruths about workingmen and their unions.

"Despite continued warnings of the economic consequences," said the Sun's deathbed statement, "various unions have forced and are continuing to force, higher wages, until, in the newspaper business as a whole, they have risen beyond reason. In the 10-year period from 1939 to and including 1949, the average advance in individual pay of the Sun's employees was 80.4 percent. In the same period, the price of newsprint rose from \$48 to \$100 a ton. Prices of all other supplies increased in corresponding ratios."

Even with pulse falling, the Sun could still play games with figures. It didn't say what the actual dollar wages were but craftily used a percentage. Yet the annual increase was 8 percent, certainly not outrageous when the price of food and over-all cost of living were soaring beyond the matching power of any increase. Certainly, the 80.4 wage increase was less than the more than 100 percent news-