the Interests of the A. F. of L. and the Working Man

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNA

State-wide Labor Weekly, Presenting Labor News and Views Without Fear and Without Favor

to the Continued Industrial Growth of North Carolina

VOL. XIX; NO. 37

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1950

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year

RAISE LOW INCOMES THROUGH ORGANIZATI

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.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, told the capacity audience of AFL union officials, organizers and

rank and filers in the Atlanta Labor Temple that the cardinal principle of the AFL is still to "proclaim the organizing of the unorganized."

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

"The meeting was an enthusiastic success," Mr. O'Reilly said. "We in this centennial year to give ev- cooperative housing amendment ery workingman in America the opportunity to join with his fellow workers in the American Federation of Labor to improve the eco- moderate income group: nomic, social and civic position of all workmen."

principle speaker at an organizing Spence of the cooperative housing rally called by the Central Trades amendment to the Middle Income and Labor Union of the Lower Rio Housing bill paves the way for Grande Valley, at Harlingen, Tex- providing decent homes for thouas, on Jan. 14 and 15.

J. L. Rhodes, director of southern organization work, and AFL organizers in Texas have been called to the conference

Ohio Federation of Labor (dedication of new home), Columbus, Jan. 21 and 22; Indiana Federation of Labor, Indianapolis, Jan. 21 and 22; Minnesota Federation of Labor. St. Paul, Jan. 23; Texas Labor League for Political Education. Austin, Jan. 27; Louisiana League for Political Education, Alexandria, La., Jan. 28; Connecticut Federation of Labor, New Haven, Jan. 29; Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, Harrisburg, Jan. 30 and 31; West Virginia Federation of Labor, Clarksburg, W. Va., Feb. 19.

Virginia Federation of Labor, Texas Federation Richmond, Va., Jan. 15; Kansas Federation of Labor, Wichita, Jan. 21: Vermont Federation of Labor. Barrington, March 5.

The AFL convention last year in St. Paul called on every state federation to hold a Gompers' Memorial organizing and political rally at the start of the year. Arrangements have been started for most of these events.

These meetings aimed at enlisting 1,000,000 new members are in honor of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL who was born 100 years ago on Jan. 27, 1850.

U. S. HELPS FORMOSA.

Washington.-American aid to Sparks said in his monthly report. Formosa, especially its support of During its golden anniversary rent reductions for tenant farmers year, the Texas Federation will and its fertilizer supply program, play host to the 70th AFL convenhas helped keep the political and tion at Houston next Sept. 18, climeconomic situation on the island axing the AFL's celebration of the from deteriorating badly in the 100th anniversary of the birth of face of Communist success on the Samuel Gompers. Chinese mainland, says Raymond The Texas Federation has called T. Moyer, chief representative of its state-wide organizing and politthe Economic Cooperation Adminical rally to be held Friday, Jan. istration on the island and also a 27, the anniversary of Mr. Gompmember of the Chinese-American ers' birthday at Austin. Joint Commission for Rural Re- An intensive drive is being made construction which is sponsored to see that every member of or-and financed by the Economic Co-operation Administration. Texas before the Jan. 31 deadline.

Green Says New Housing Bill Aid To AFL Families

Washington. - AFL President are off to a good start in our effort William Green said that the new introduced at the start of the present session of Congress paves the way for decent housing for thousands of American families in the

Mr. Green said in a statement: "The introduction by Senator Mr. O'Reilly is due to be the Maybank and Representative sands 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 Other statewide organizing and before the Congress, will set up a political rallies already arranged program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a program for the middle income nousing bill now before the Congress, will set up a political rallies already arranged before the Congress, will set up a political rallies already arranged before the Congress, will set up a political rallies already arranged before the Congress, will set up a political rallies already arranged before the congress. 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."

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 mem-

"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.

Edwards On 8 Labor Stations

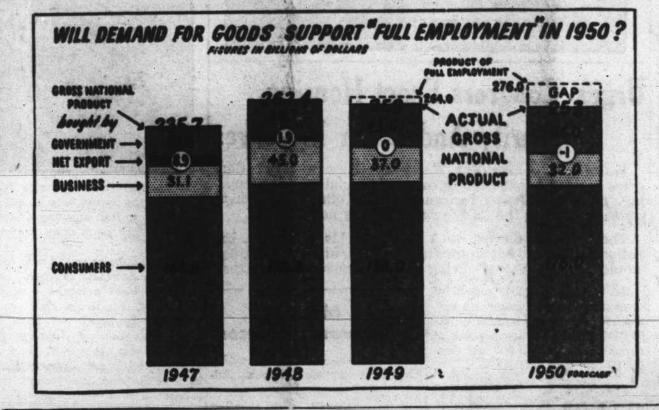
Washington.—Eight labor-owned m., M-W-F; WILH, Lowell-Law-radio stations are carrying the rence, Mass, 10 p. m., M-W-F; news commentary of Frank Ed-WREX, Duluth, Minn., 9 p. m., Mthrough Friday.

The call letters of 6 Mutual stations were incorrectly listed in the news service of Dec. 23. Their and time for Mr. Edwards' broadcorrect listing is:

wards, sponsored by the American W-F; WEBR, Buffalo, N. Y., 10 Federation of Labor, Monday p. m., M-Th-F; WBPZ, Lock Haven, Pa., 10 p. m., M-W-F; KPDN,

wide, Biddleford, Maine, 10 p. AFL members and readers.

Georgia Federation Of AFL Says Workers Need Substantial Raise Washington.—The AFL told Congress that the nation's low-income workers can improve their lot by organizing into In 1950 To Maintain Full Employment Levels



New Stamp to Carry Gompers Likeness

SAMUEL GOMPERS

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-cents 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.

celebration of Samuel Gompers' birth alive throughout

1950," Mr. Doherty said. "There is a good chance that such

received by postal authorities. Appropriate first-day cere-monies with AFL President William Green and government

New Senators Sworn As Congress Opens

ea move will exhaust the first printing and require re-issues."

Buy a year's supply of Samuel Gompers stamps!

the National Association of Letter Carriers.

George Meany and other AFL officials.

officials participating are being planned.

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.

Riley said.

FIGURE EACH CLU SHOULD ADD 1,250

Asheville, N. C .- The Asheville Central Labor Union figures that each of the 800 AFL Central Labor Unions should add 1,250 new members to enable the AFL to reach its goal of 1,-000,000 new members in 1950 as a memorial to Samuel Gompers, AFL founder.

CLU President James F. Barrett said the Asheville Central Labor Union has already started adding new members.

family incomes tomeet 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 d

ing for the last 100 years," Mr.

"The experiences of our affiliated international unions tell us that many workers are low pa 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 longestablished AFL policy that "union organization is the primary method whereby workers can raise their living standards."

"The Taft-Hartley law has pre-

vented our unions from carrying forward effectively their organ New York Correspondent for AFL that the Sun never issued to the is grave danger that the efforts of newsprint monopolists, even when they were demanding black marty will be completely frustrated." able newsprint cost increases, nor ilar warnings to makers of "all other supplies" whose prices were age and increase the amount of "increased in corresponding ratios." benefit payments under social se-Yet the Sun wheesed that "the curity and unemployment come sation; enact health insure demands of the unions have federal aid to education and spi brought here in New York-what measures to help apprentice-tr they are working elsewhere ing, handicapped and older workthroughout the nation-an unprece-

dented and increasing number of ers, members of minority groups casualties among newspapers which and farm laborers. "The AFL," Mr. Riley said. once were great and strong." Let "finds no difficulty in suggesti it be noted for future historians who shall participate in a better that the Sun had no union of its income. The answer is 'everybody, including the low-income famil who still are lowest on the totem

A subcommittee of the congress sional joint committee reporte 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.

Sun Hurls Last Lie

SUN HURLS LAST LIE Gf,55 BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN

labor journal, died last week after living to an overripe old age of is there any known record of sim-coverage of the m

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 in the AFL printing trades were

The Sun has been sold to the Telegram; rather what was sold dactyl. The Sun died because in a was its name and God save the city which four times voted for mark!—its "goodwill"; that's what Franklin D. Rooseveit's New Deal, it said. The likelihood that the a city militantly prolabor with cause of labor liberalism will be several million union-minded wage-That is the suggestion to AFL local unions and members the gainer by the Sun's sale to the earners and family members, the nade by AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president of Scripps-Howard interests are remote at this writing unless Roy going unpleasant climacteric Howard, the newspaper chain's agonies. His proposal is endorsed by AFL Secretary-Treasurer boss, is suddenly victimized by a Pauline vision, a prospect even "By buying a year's supply of stamps and using them on more dismally remote. all mail, AFL members and unions can keep the centennial

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. The Post Office Department said that 112,000,000 of the stamps will be printed in the first run. They will be sold for in death, the Sun uttered the same the first time on Jan. 27, the 100th anniversary of Mr. obscene untruths about working-

Gompers' birth, in Washington only. Later they will be sold by all of the more than 40,000 post offices across the country. "Despite continued "Despite continued warnings of the economic consequences," said More than 400,000 requests for first-day covers have been 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 employes 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 failing, 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-

newspapermen unlike other metropolitan papers with American be also noted that the wages paid pole of our national economy. Newspaper Guild contracts. Let it -makes it difficult to speak good no different than those paid by about it, as one should about the other New York newspapers which seem to be thriving. The Sun died because it had to Scripps-Howard New York World- die just like the dinosaur or ptero-

> MARKS FIFTH YEAR 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.

Vets Checks Ready

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,-

Bakery Workers Win Rose Parade Award



As It Stops Breathing print increase. You can be sure