

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

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CHI ACTS TO STOP DELIVERYMEN KILLINGS

San Francisco Unions Fete Teen-Age Groups

(Special Correspondence.)
San Francisco.—The joyous laughter and excitement of happy children is still ringing through the halls of San Francisco's Labor Temple.

Just as there yet lingers in the hearts of the members affiliated with the San Francisco Labor Council of the AFL that deep feeling of satisfaction which comes from an act of charity and brotherly love.

But let's start from the beginning—and this beginning was 2 years ago when Jim Symes, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label section, brought up the disturbing thought that in the rush of Christmas parties for the kiddies one segment of our younger people was being entirely overlooked—our teenagers—the "neither too young nor too old" group to enjoy a party.

Jim's idea caught on immediately and there was born right then and there an annual Christmas party for the Golden Gate City's teenager orphans, sponsored by the Union Label Section.

Describing the success of that first party would tax the prolific vocabulary of a Hollywood press agent—the second, even more so!

Organizing is a keyword to every union man and is essential to the success of every undertaking. And so, this year, as last, the Union Label Section's Orphan Christmas Tree Committee was formed.

Their job was an easy one because everywhere they went they met with an eager, splendid cooperation.

The same 3 orphanages as in 1948 were again contacted—one Jewish, one Protestant, and the third, Catholic. Each teenager was asked to list one present he'd like to receive from Santa, naming 2 alternate gifts to give Mr. Claus a little leeway.

Business agent for Santa Claus was Ted White, secretary-treasurer of Local 860, Warehousemen's Union, whose assignment it was to go about making certain that Jimmie got that pair of baseball spikes; Mary, a pair of honeybug slippers, and yes, the one that almost stumped Ted—a 5-gallon aquarium for 12-year-old Billie.

Then came the day of the party—and what a day and what a party—and what cooperation! A fleet of buses manned by the Chauffeurs Union called at the orphanages for the 154 thrilled teenagers and escorted them to the Labor Temple... there was a movie and entertainment... a band and orchestra from the Musicians Union... a soft-drink bar operated by the Bartenders Union... a turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings, compliments of the Cooks and Catering Unions... and then came the distribution of the presents, including dresses, skirts and blouses supplied by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

And finally when day's end had come, the very excited group of young men and women were again escorted in buses back from whence they came, their eyes reflecting the happiness they surely felt.

The party proved one thing—union folks are a bunch of softies, for at evening's end there were to be found many a misty eye—but then happiness does that, doesn't it?

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:

WIDE, Biddleford, Maine, 10 p.

Truman Favors Take-Home Rise

Washington.—President Truman and his council of economic advisers favor increased family incomes and take-home pay for workers in their annual economic reports.

The AFL Monthly Survey reports that buying power of the average factory workers' weekly pay envelope, after tax deduction, was higher in 1949 than 1948, due partly to wage increases won by unions and partly to the slight decline in prices.

This is the first time since the war that wage increases have not been cancelled by price rises. The increase shown on the accompanying chart for 1948 was due to the 3 percent cut in taxes; for wage increases were cancelled by price rises in 1948 as in previous post-war years.

A study of 4,003 wage negotiations from January through November, 1949, shows that the American Federation of Labor was chiefly responsible for wage increases won this year. These negotiations covered at least 6,500,000 workers including those in AFL and other unions. Wage increases were won in 2,882 negotiations, of which 1,934, or 67 percent, were conducted by AFL unions. That is, our affiliated unions won twice as many wage increases as all unaffiliated unions together. AFL unions took part in 2,361 of these negotiations, won wage increases in 82 percent, other gains in 9 percent; that is, gains were won in 91 percent of our negotiations.

This is our record for 1949; as we all know, these wage gains were won without forcing general price rises, for living costs declined during 1949. We intend to go forward in 1950 to win further wage gains, cooperating with employers to cut costs wherever they are willing to make this possible. By cooperation we mean genuine joint effort based on submission of cost records; we do not mean acquiescence in employer dominated speed-up schemes.

Zaritsky Tells Plan To Retire

New York.—Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers of the AFL, has announced that he will not stand for re-election at the union's biennial convention, May 1.

Mr. Zaritsky, who will be 65 next April 15, has headed the 40,000-member union since 1936. Under the union constitution retirement is mandatory at 65 years.

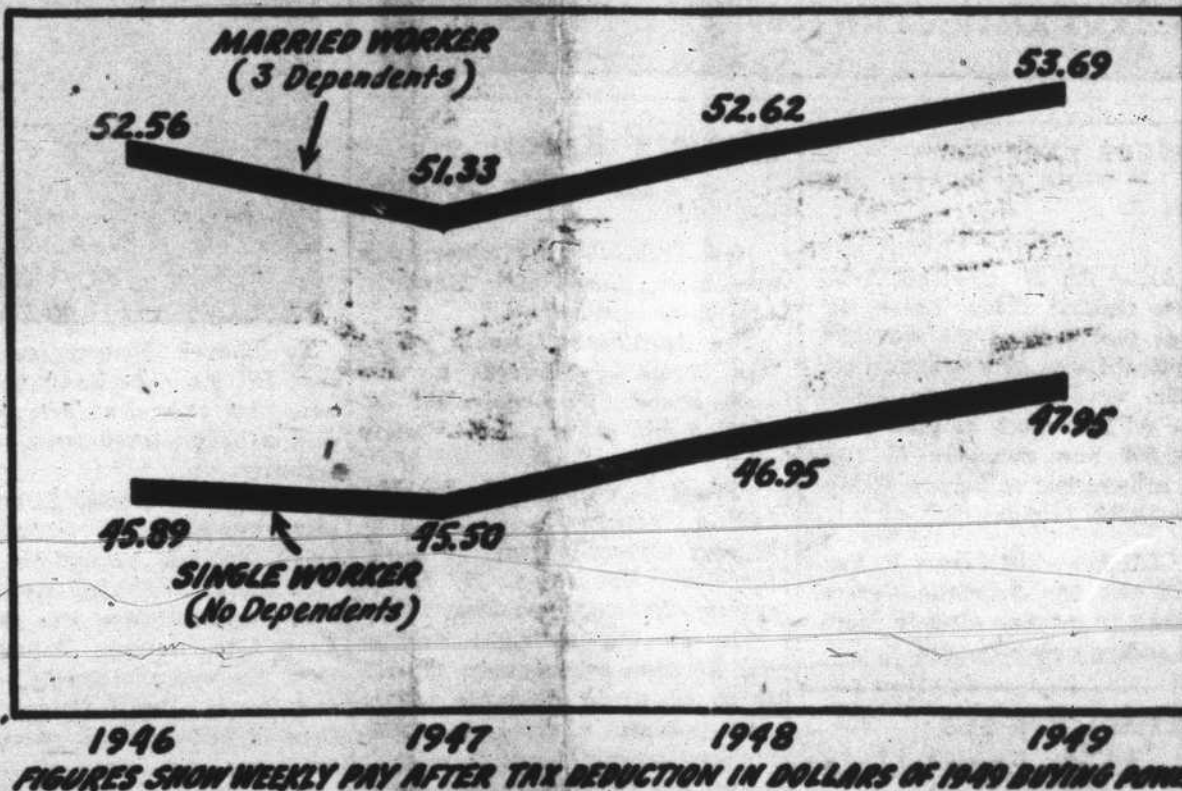
Mr. Zaritsky has headed the union since 1936, but his leadership actually began in 1919, when he was elected president of the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union. This organization merged with the United Hatters in 1934 to form the present organization. Mr. Zaritsky served as general secretary-treasurer and then became president of the merged union.

A special meeting of the international executive board will be held in March to discuss possible successors to Mr. Zaritsky. The final choice will be up to the convention.

Among those who are expected to receive consideration for the post are 3 vice presidents—Abraham Mendelowitz, I. H. Goldberg and Nathaniel Spector.

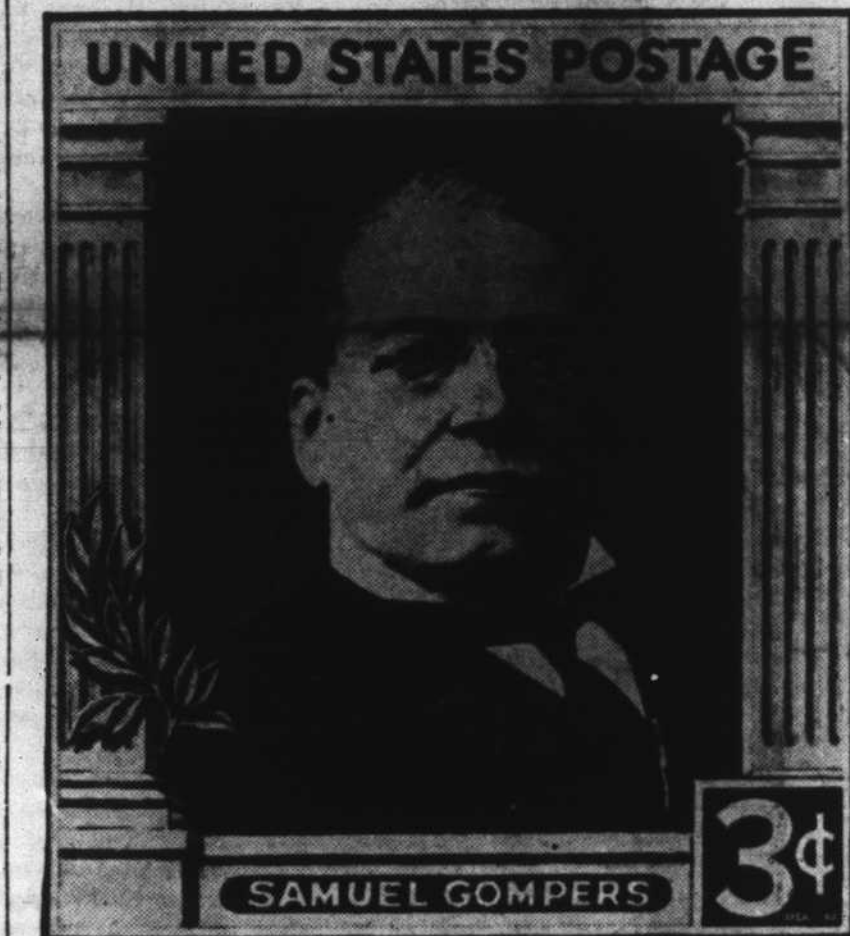
AFL Says Workers Need Substantial Raise In 1950 To Maintain Full Employment Levels

BUYING POWER OF FACTORY WORKERS TAKE-HOME PAY INCREASES



FIGURES SHOW WEEKLY PAY AFTER TAX REDUCTION IN DOLLARS OF 1949 BUYING POWER

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.

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. "There is a good chance that such a move will exhaust the first printing and require re-issues."

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.

President Truman Honors Gompers



Washington.—President Truman tells Gompers Memorial Dinner that he recalls AFL founder as "the originator of the great movement which set labor free." He is applauded, l. to r., by Vice-President and Mrs. Alben W. Barkley, AFL President William Green, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Immediately below Mr. Truman are seated, l. to r., John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department and Gompers' biographer; Vice-President John Keenan and President Chester Sample of the Molders and Foundry Workers Union.

BY DAN SMITH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service.

Chicago.—After conference with AFL union leaders, Mayor Martin H. Kennelly of Chicago ordered special police measures to stop a wave of crime against deliverymen.

During the last year, two milk drivers, a taxi driver and a laundry driver have been murdered at their work, and there have been several hundred robberies and beatings.

Latest victim was Henry Tatum, 38, a member of the Laundry and Dye House Drivers and Chauffeurs Union, Local 712, of the IBT. He was shot to death Christmas Eve between deliveries.

The shots which killed him were heard by members of a family to whom he had delivered a laundry bundle only a moment before. The man of the house ran outside to find the dead driver in a passageway between buildings. His pockets had been emptied of his money, his wallet and his driver's license.

A reward of \$1,000 was posted by the laundry drivers' union for information leading to solution of the murder. A delegation of AFL

leaders, headed by President William A. Lee, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, interviewed the mayor to demand better police protection.

George Knott, president, said Jean R. Frank, secretary-treasurer of the laundrymen's local, reported 150 drivers have been robbed and slugged in the last two years. Lee said there were 54 holdups of deliverymen in the last 90 days.

In addition, more than 20 drivers are on disability leave, slugged by bandits because they didn't have enough money to satisfy the criminals.

Mayor Kennelly ordered his police commissioner, James C. Pendergast, to assign special squads to concentrate exclusively on guarding delivery trucks, especially in known trouble spots.

To develop the protection program, monthly meetings will be held between labor leaders and top police officers.

The city building commissioner was directed to stiffen enforcement of a city ordinance which requires owners of apartment buildings to keep hallways and stairways lighted at night.

Spokesmen for the deliverymen said enforcement of the ordinance is lax in the areas where it is needed most. But the law itself should provide for illumination even during daytime hours, they said. In some Chicago apartment buildings, stairways and hallways are black as pitch at high noon.

In addition to Lee and the laundrymen's spokesmen, labor leaders who appealed to the mayor included Frank Brown, president of the Teamsters, John Connelley, Thomas J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the milk drivers' local, and Dan McNamara, secretary of the street car men's union. Lee also is president of the bakery drivers' union.

Chicagoans Select Cleary for Keenan

(Special Correspondence.)

Chicago.—William F. Cleary, business representative of the AFL electricians' union, Local 134, IBEW, was elected secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, succeeding Joseph D. Keenan.

Keenan resigned Nov. 1 to devote his full time to his position as director of Labor's League for Political Education. Keenan and Cleary rose to leadership in the same local union, of which Keenan is still secretary.

Cleary was elected by 470 votes to 54 for Sidney Garfield, financial secretary of the Chemical Workers, Local 241. The federation represents 450 local unions claiming a total membership of about 400,000. Its secretaryship is a key position in the Chicago labor movement.

Cleary was born in Chicago on March 3, 1896. He began his apprenticeship in the electricians local when he was 17. His training was interrupted by World War I. He enlisted in the army the day the United States entered the conflict. After 22 months' service overseas he returned to complete his apprenticeship in Chicago in 1921.

He has been business representative of Local 134 since 1945. His work was an important factor in the enormous expansion of the electrical unions since the enactment of the Wagner labor relations law.

Puerto Rico Sends Gompers Greetings

Washington.—The Puerto Rico Federation of Workingmen sent greetings to AFL President William Green on the occasion of the Samuel Gompers Memorial Dinner on Jan. 5.

The message, signed by Vice President F. Paz Granelo of the Puerto Rican Federation, said:

"On the occasion of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of our beloved founder and first president of the AFL, the Free Federation of Workingmen of Puerto Rico joins with great pleasure in such act of gratitude to the memory of the great labor leader.

"It is altogether proper and fitting for organized labor through America to render a tribute of respect to the memory of the man whose great work, and sincere and unflinching devotion to the cause of labor, has meant so much, not only for the continental United States and Puerto Rico, but for the whole world as well.

"Organized labor honors itself by honoring the memory of our never-to-be-forgotten Samuel Gompers. Puerto Rico will never forget him, as it was he who helped Santiago Iglesias in the great task of organizing the laborers of Puerto Rico."

Farm Union Is Exempt From T-H

Washington.—The AFL National Farm Labor Union is exempt from the Taft-Hartley law.

The National Labor Relations Board ruled unanimously that the union cannot be prosecuted under the Taft-Hartley Act because it is not a labor organization as defined by the law.

The ruling was the third important decision in a week in favor of AFL unions in critical areas of enforcement of the law which the AFL wants repealed.

These decisions, upholding struck work clauses, unfair lists and the farm union's right to strike made a more devastating argument against the wasteful bureaucracy and red tape created by the unwieldy Taft-Hartley law and its unwarranted interference in internal union affairs than many of the speeches against the act.

The National Farm Labor Union denied the right of certification under the Taft-Hartley Act, was nevertheless being prosecuted under the law by General Counsel Robert N. Denham for an alleged illegal boycott.

The board's first ruling on this question was made in a case that grew out of the strike at the Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation ranch, Bakersfield, Calif., in progress since 1947.

A local of the National Farm Union, seeking recognition, picketed the ranch and business places where ranch products were delivered. The farm union was charged with violating the secondary boycott ban and with restraint and coercion of employees.

A court injunction in this case has restrained the farm union and 3 other unions since July, 1948. The board found that two of the unions had violated the law.

GREEN ASKS SUPPORT FOR MARCH OF DIMES

AFL President William Green called upon the AFL membership to support the annual March of Dimes drive of the National foundation for Infantile Paralysis beginning Jan. 16.

In a letter sent to all AFL affiliates, Mr. Green urged members "to voluntarily contribute as generously as possible to the financial appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis." He pointed out that polio had afflicted "many of the children of working people."

Noting that the number of polio victims had skyrocketed during the past year, the AFL chief called for "increasing financial help." He said the "need is very great" to help the victims of this disease and pointed out that in many instances polio victims had been saved by expert medical care supplied by the National Foundation.

Mr. Green's appeal came on the heels of an announcement by Basil O'Connor which revealed that some \$31,000,000 had been expended by the National Foundation for medical care alone in 1949 which saw a record polio epidemic sweep the nation. This unprecedented outbreak virtually depleted the National Foundation's resources.

In order to carry on its relentless war against infantile paralysis, the National Foundation, whose burden has become more acute because of the rising tide of polio, has asked everyone to double his contribution to the forthcoming March of Dimes drive.

James J. Herkenham, Jr., Director of Labor Services for the National Foundation, has requested labor unions and union members to make their contributions directly to the local National Foundation chapter in their vicinity.