

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

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AFL COUNCIL AFFIRMS WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Ceremony at Washington Monument Marks Gompers Birthday



Washington.—AFL President William Green (right center) lays a wreath inscribed "1850-1950" at the statue to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, on the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, Jan. 27, 1950. Behind Mr. Green is a delegation of West German officials and trade unionists. AFL Vice-President W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers (left center), watches Mr. Green. Behind Mr. Doherty are AFL International Representative George P. Delaney, Vice-President Elmer E. Walker of the International Association of Machinists; Archie Gordon of the British Embassy; Logan Kimmel, AFL chief clerk; W. C. Hushing, AFL legislative chairman; President Leo George of the AFL National Association of Postoffice Clerks.

Edwards Prepares Radio Script



Washington.—Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator, dictates notes to his secretary, Mrs. Nora E. Lee, in his office at AFL headquarters to be used in one of his scripts for broadcasting. Mr. Edwards' program originates from Washington over the Mutual Broadcasting System Monday through Friday at 10 P. M. and boasts one of the fastest-growing audiences in radio.

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council pledged to "redouble our efforts" to build world labor solidarity and took steps to make the AFL stronger in the fight for a more abundant life here at home. As the council neared adjournment of its midwinter meeting, the members:

Oppose U. S. Nod For Franco Spain

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council called on the U. S. government "to adhere firmly to non-recognition" of Franco Spain.

The council said in part: "The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has again considered the question of our government according full diplomatic recognition to the Fascist dictatorship in Spain headed by Generalissimo Franco.

"We reaffirm our opposition to such recognition and call upon the State Department to adhere firmly to the policy of nonrecognition. We urge the President of the United States, the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs committees to do everything in their power to assure a continuation of the policy of nonrecognition of the Falangist regime in Spain.

"We are convinced that the reasoning underlying the proposal to extend full recognition would inevitably lead our government from one fatal blunder to another. We cannot accept as a premise that in the present explosive international situation—in which Communist totalitarianism is the main danger of war—diplomatic recognition by the world's leading democracy has no moral implications whatsoever.

"On this basis, our government could logically hasten to extend such recognition to the Communist usurpers who, with the aid of imperialist Russia, have overthrown the legally-constituted government of China which was the very first one to ferret totalitarian aggression.

"Nor can we agree with the contention that an American ambassador in Madrid could serve to hasten political and economic reform in Spain.

"On the contrary, such recognition only paves the way for extensive financial aid to a despicable despotism now in the throes of a crisis which, if not alleviated by outside aid, can lead only to its doom.

"Especially at this moment, when with Communist China as its spearhead, Russia is driving at a furious pace to put all of Asia under the yoke of totalitarian Communism, will the recognition of Franco have disastrous repercussions throughout the Far East.

"The American trade union delegates to the recent London Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions were united in their vigorous initiative to have a strong condemnation of the Franco dictatorship become the expression and the voice of the international free labor movement. Democratic labor can never forget that in Falangist Spain trade unions are prohibited, their activities outlawed, and their advocates imprisoned and even executed.

"We cannot emphasize too strongly that in Latin America, United States recognition of Franco would only lend more power to the brutal fists of the dictators who are dangerous enemies of democracy in the western hemisphere. It is no accident that the worst dictatorships in Latin America—Argentina, the Dominican regime, and Peru—are the ones that maintain diplomatic representation.

generally considered the danger point," the AFL said.

"Such a prospect calls for serious consideration and planning. Now is the time to take preventive action. If unemployment is to be no more than the 2,100,000 average in 1947 and 1948, then jobs for 61,000,000 will be needed."

The AFL says that the prospective decline of business after mid-1950 "will test the ability of our free enterprise system to maintain full production and employment."

"Our economy is strong and healthy," the AFL says. "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."

1. Voted on invitation to be issued in 60 days to the International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate its 600,000 members with the AFL.

2. Urged aid to help India overcome its immediate food difficulties, develop public education and improve public health.

3. Gave full backing to the new International Confederation of Free Trades Unions formed in London last December.

4. Opposed U. S. recognition for Franco Spain and Communist China.

5. Urged the U. S. Senate to ratify the United Nations convention outlawing genocide—mass killing of national, racial and religious groups.

6. Demanded immediate congressional action to repeal excise taxes on transportation, theater tickets and other consumer items.

7. Agreed to comply with a request of Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing to distribute among AFL members factual information on what the health insurance program supported by the AFL provides.

8. Heard Assistant Secretary of State Willard L. Thorpe explain the scope and effects of the International Trade agreement entered into at Havana last year.

The council and its affiliated departments disposed of a big backlog of other important business during the sessions here.

In reaffirming the AFL's prominent position in international affairs, the council made it plain that the 8,000,000 members of the AFL expect the United States government to stand firm in its opposition to communism and fascism wherever it is manifested throughout the world.

The council elaborated its previous approval of President Truman's point 4 program to aid underdeveloped areas. It emphasized the need for labor representation in the formulation of plans for technical aid to these underdeveloped nations.

Starr Sees Need Of New Incentives

Ithaca, N. Y.—Mark Starr, educational director of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, says that "a major problem confronting labor and management is the search for new incentives."

"The old incentives of individual gain, professional advancement and interest in work have lost their previous power," he writes in the quarterly "Industrial and Labor Relations Review" of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

"At the very moment when the forces of world democracy and free labor are consolidating their ranks, let our government not divide them. At the very moment, when additional millions of the common people are placing their faith in our country as the worthy defender of human freedom, let us not disappoint and discourage them.

"With all sincerity and strength at our command, we appeal to the President of the United States, to the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees and the State Department to stand loyally and firmly by the present policy of the United Nations towards the Fascist dictatorship in Spain.

Farm Union Donates Dues To Qualified Voter Members

Washington.—President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union instructed 275 locals to put into immediate effect a plan to exonerate every member qualified to vote in 1950 from payment of one month's membership dues.

The action, ordered by the union's annual convention in Fresno, Calif., in January, is one of the most concrete steps taken by an AFL union to support the 1950 Gompers Centennial Year campaign to elect a liberal Congress and gain 1,000,000 new members.

The union constitution as amended at Fresno provides: "All members who present evidence that they are qualified to vote in local, state and national elections, and otherwise exercise their duties as citizens, shall be exonerated from the payment of one month's membership dues each year."

Mr. Mitchell also announced the calling of a southern organizing conference to be held in Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 25 to lay plans to bring into the ranks of the American Federation of Labor thousands of cotton field workers.

The union convention adopted a program to organize 100,000 farm workers throughout the country as part of the American Federation of Labor's drive for 1,000,000 new members as a memorial to the late Samuel Gompers whose 100th birthday is now being celebrated.

Mitchell said that the organizing campaign among farm workers was already in full swing on the west coast, and that the drive was being fully supported by the American Federation of Labor and a number of international unions affiliated with the AFL.

Among the international unions are the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Employees Union; Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, and Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Makers Union.

Mitchell, who has returned from the west coast, said his convention endorsed the Brannan Farm Plan; urged the placement of European displaced persons in areas other than depressed agricultural areas where native workers are unemployed. The convention endorsed Helen Gahagan Douglas for the U. S. Senate and James Roosevelt for governor of the state.

A statement adopted by the convention on "Full Employment in Agriculture" set forth the union's demand for wages of \$1 per hour for an 8-hour day and overtime rates for farm workers. It also suggested a goal of a national minimum of \$3 per hour for operators of machine driven equipment on large scale farms and a 6-hour day.

The convention elected the following officers for a 2-year term: H. L. Mitchell, president; Dorothy Dow, secretary-treasurer; F. R. Betton, 1st vice president; George Stith, 2d vice president; George F. Weber, 3d vice president; H. E. Hasiwar, 4th vice president; Ernesto Galarza, 5th vice president.

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 enterprises.

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.

TO DISBAND LAND ARMY. London.—The Women's Land Army created by Great Britain to meet a wartime need is to be disbanded Nov. 30, 1950.

Cholly Knickerbocker Observes:

THIS IS SOME SWITCH: the AFL is now invading Southampton, L. I., one of society's favorite summer playgrounds. The Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry just purchased the 200-acre Charles E. Sablin estate, which borders the National Golf Club near Southampton.

The Sablin estate, formerly one of the showplaces in that summer resort, was bought by the labor group from Charles Sablin's widow, Mrs. Dwight Davis. The electrical union paid about \$250,000 for the property, which will be converted into a recreational playground for its members.

That means next summer we will have laborers rubbing elbows with Dubois, Biddle, Vanderbilts and other social grandees. And, since the union will undoubtedly outnumber the Social Registerites, I think the only thing left to do is for them to organize a society union and buy a playground of their own.

Very soon it will be that if you don't organize you won't even be able to play.

Excise Taxes Seen Threat To Jobs

Miami, Fla.—Advocating immediate repeal of the wartime excise taxes, the AFL executive council said:

"Large sections of the membership of the American Federation of Labor have registered protests with the executive council against the continuation of the federal excise taxes imposed during the war on amusements, transportation, communications, cosmetics, leather goods, jewelry and many other products.

"When enacted, Congress referred to these excise taxes as temporary war emergency measures. Failure to repeal them since the end of the war constitutes a breach of faith with the American people.

"Today the government stands to tax revenues through the continuation of these excise taxes because of their strangling effect on business.

"The executive council desires to go on record as emphatically as possible for immediate action by Congress to repeal the excise taxes so that this unnecessary threat to business and employment can be removed."

HINES NAMED.

New York.—Lewis G. Hines, AFL special representative, was appointed by American Legion Commander George N. Craig to the permanent committee of a new organization to combat communism in the United States. The AFL is one of the organizations with a combined membership of 50,000,000 members which joined the new set-up.

Time Now to Halt Increase in Jobless

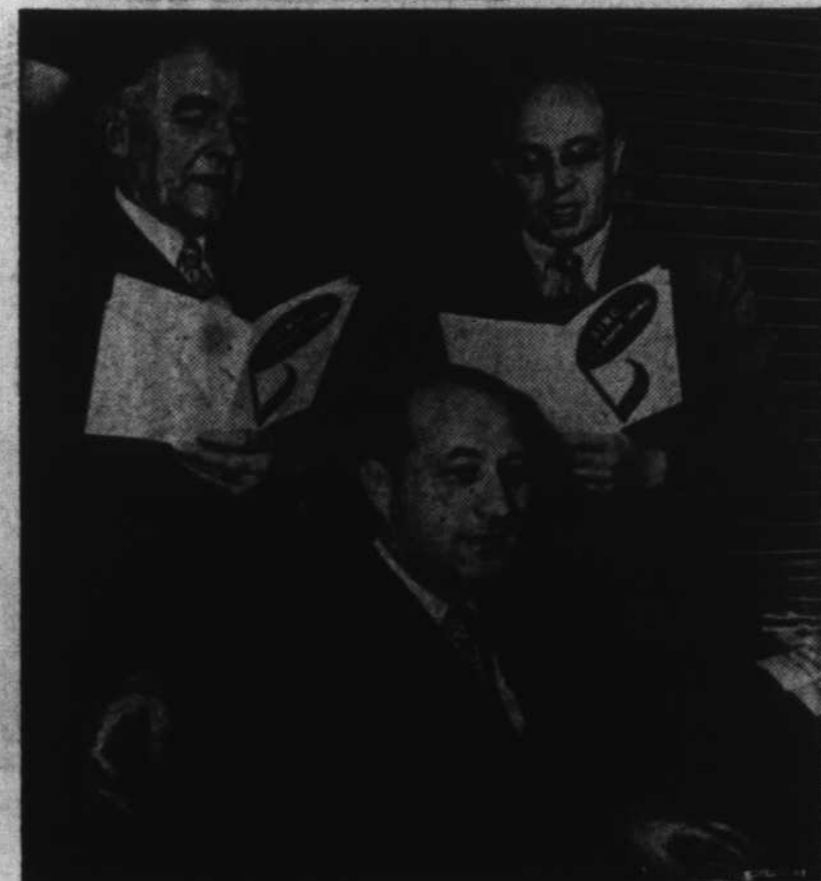
Washington.—Now is the time to take preventive action to halt the increase in unemployed workers, the AFL says.

So far the plea has fallen on deaf ears in government and industry.

The accompanying chart shows the dark "black pool" of unemployment, which had spread widest in the 30s, again expanding after the wartime "full employment." The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey forecasts that this pool will remain at its present width at the eighth of the chart, representing an average of 51,100,000 unemployed for the whole year of 1950.

"During industrial dull seasons, unemployment would rise considerably above 5,000,000, the figure

They Sing of Pensions And Bosses



New York.—President A. J. Hayes (left) of the International Association of Machinists sings some of the new songs from "Sing a Labor Song" by Gerald Stark (at piano) and Milton Pascal (right). The book, sponsored by the Machinists, contains songs about pensions, picket lines, Labor Day and "The Guy I Send to Congress."

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. 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.