

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

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Meany Questions Histadrut Ties to Commie WFTU

Chicago.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said that the American friends of Histadrut are "perplexed" that Israel's labor organization continues to be a member of the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions.

Mr. Meany spoke of the long friendship and earnest support of the AFL for Israel and Histadrut at a dinner of the trade union division of the Chicago Israel Histadrut.

But, he pointed out, "Histadrut, alone, of all the free national trade union centers in the world still holds membership in the Communist-controlled World Federation of Labor."

Mr. Meany said: "I understand the problem of the new State of Israel, and I understand the problems of Histadrut, which has such an important role in the affairs of Israel. I know that the Jewish trade unionists of Israel are deeply concerned over the plight of the Jews who are now behind the Iron Curtain and whom the masters of the Kremlin are holding as hostages. We appreciate that the problems of the new republic, which is not yet two years old and which has hostile neighbors, are not easy ones. We can, and we do understand all of that.

"But, while we give these matters the consideration and weight which they merit, we cannot comprehend the Histadrut being silent or neutral about the spread of slave labor into other countries from the modern home of slavery—Communist Russia.

"We cannot understand how the Histadrut can be silent or neutral about the Kremlin's practice of genocide. Nor can we understand how the Histadrut can be neutral when Communist Russia is refusing to permit Jewish workers to migrate to Israel, as is their desire and their right.

"Finally, how can Histadrut possibly be neutral when Jews in Soviet Russia at the present time are being actively and brutally persecuted?"

"The Histadrut is a democratic free trade union movement," Mr. Meany said. "It is not sympathetic to communism or any other form of totalitarianism. It is not an auxiliary of the Communist party. Therefore, it is very strange, very inconsistent and—let us be frank—very disturbing when we see the Histadrut seeking to be neutral in the struggle between the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Kremlin satellite, the WFTU.

"I have gone into this question at great length and I have spoken plainly. We admire the Histadrut and we honor it for all that it has done—for its truly heroic achievements—during the past 30 years. We want to be able to continue to respect the Histadrut and to keep our friendship thriving.

"As a friend of Israel and as a friend of the Histadrut, I am confident that American labor is not misplacing its faith when it predicts that the democratic labor movement of Israel will soon take its place in the free trade union movement of the earth—the vanguard of peaceful, liberty-loving humanity.

"The Histadrut is needed in the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The Histadrut belongs in the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions."

Green And Meany Urge Get That Million New Members

Washington.—The nation's biggest union organizing drive reaching into all fields of the economy is on.

AFL organizers left a 2-day conference here and are deployed all over the United States and Canada to seek 1,000,000 new AFL members in 1950.

The campaign was directed by the 1949 AFL convention in honor of the centennial of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

Winning the new members is linked to the AFL efforts to elect a liberal Congress that will enact social security, housing, health insurance and other welfare measures and repeal the Taft-Hartley law to strengthen the American way of life.

The organizers were spurred to their task by AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Harry O'Reilly, director of organizing, and Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education.

After these leaders outlined the objective and strategy, organizers from all sections discussed the particular problems they faced and how they hoped to solve them. They climaxed the two-day sessions with this pledge:

"We the organizers of the American Federation of Labor, acting under the combined inspirational spirit of our present and past great leadership, pledge ourselves to work with renewed zeal within our fields in full cooperation with the officers and organizers of the International Unions, State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies and Local Unions.

"We make this pledge in the firm conviction that 1,000,000 more members in the AFL will mean the enhancement of the dignity of labor, the improvement of the standard of living of the workers, and the strengthening of democratic ideals throughout the world and that, by thus helping to give greater effectiveness to the ideals he stood for, we will render the greatest tribute possible to the memory of Samuel Gompers."

The conference of organizers followed a series of state-wide rallies held by many state federations of labor. More of these rallies are planned and the organizing drive is expected to spread out among city and local unions gaining momentum through the summer.

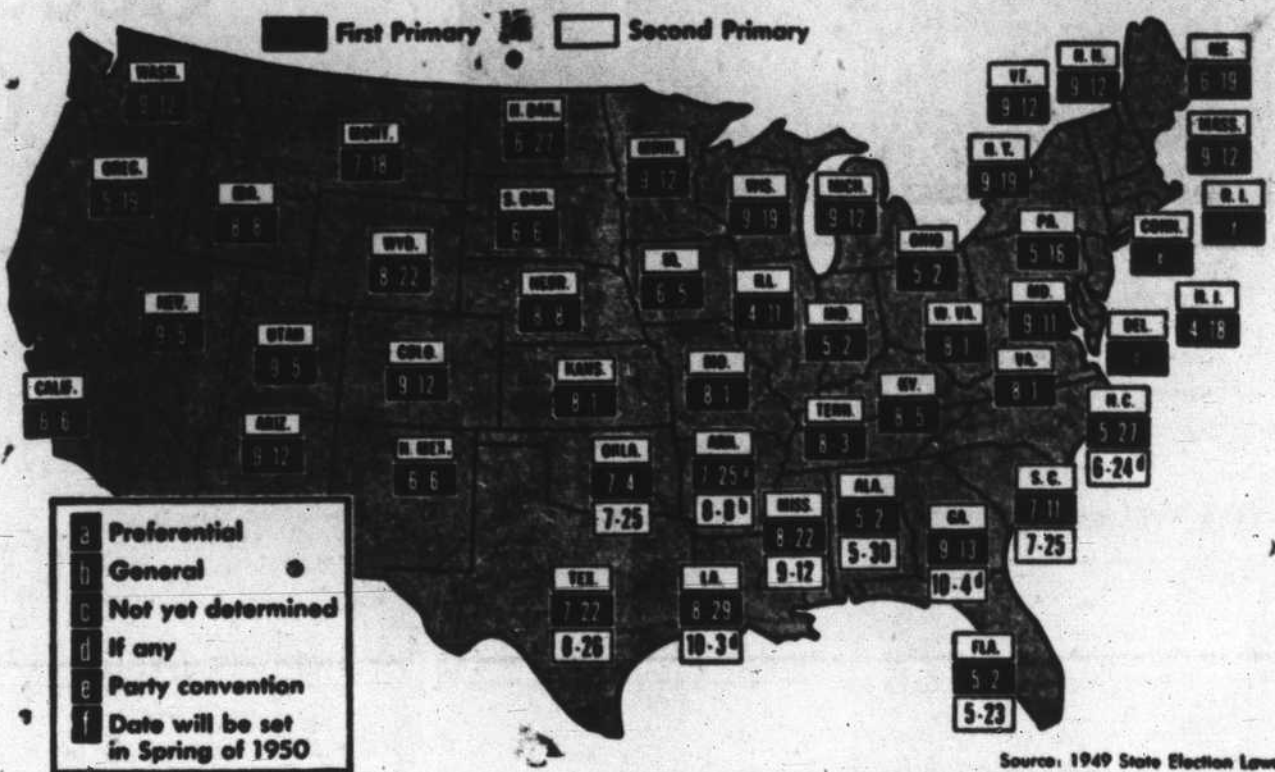
DROPS CONTROLS

London.—All postwar labor controls have now been dropped in Britain. The government has discontinued entirely the use of the power of direction. It has been applied almost exclusively to workers in coal-mining and agriculture. For others, it had been used only in 29 cases out of 9,500 vacancies filled through the Ministry of Labor's Employment Exchanges. In the past 15 months not a single worker had been directed.

GRANT INSURANCE

Chicago.—Stewart-Warner Corporation signed a contract with Local 1031 of the AFL, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers covering 2,500 employees. The agreement provides no wage increases, but includes a comprehensive insurance plan paid for by the company and for 3 weeks' vacation for employees with 12 or more years of service.

Dates of 1950 Primary Elections



Dubinsky Sees Hard Fight Ahead With Red WFTU

BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service.

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, believes that the recently-organized International Confederation of Free Trade Unions "is a categorical repudiation of the myth that Soviet totalitarianism is a progressive idea, or that the Communist system offers anything that will advance the interests of the international working class."

Writing in the April issue of the influential quarterly, Foreign Affairs, Dubinsky, a member of the AFL delegation which helped organize the ICFTU, asserted: "Delegates representing 50,000,000 workers in more than 50 countries have now branded Bolshevism the arch-enemy of labor. This may well turn out to be the blow that destroys the pretense under which Bolshevism has for several decades made most of its gains—the supposition that it is a friend of the workers of the world."

The ILGWU chieftain lashed out at Franco Spain by declaring that "free labor everywhere recognizes the essential identity of Nazism, Fascism, Falangism and Communism" and asserted that "vacillating policies, such as the one recently proposed by our State Department toward Franco Spain, can create grave misunderstandings of the American purposes among the laboring forces of Europe and Asia."

Dubinsky warned that the conflict between the free labor movement and the Soviet World Federation of Trade Unions is "bound to grow in intensity and bitterness."

"Both organizations are fighting for the biggest stakes in the world—the hearts and souls and minds of many millions of working people in scores of countries. Moscow could not possibly impose totalitarian Communism on the rest of the world without first getting a stranglehold on the remaining free labor organizations."

"That would entail the destruction of the ICFTU, now the head and heart of international democratic labor. The new international fully realizes the seriousness of the threat. The battle is all the more difficult because the WFTU is permitted full freedom to operate against free trade unions in democratic lands, while the road is heavily barred to the ICFTU in all iron curtain countries."

In addition, Mr. Dubinsky says that in France, Italy and some sections of Asia and Africa the WFTU still holds formidable positions that the communists won by infiltration "during the 4 years when their association with the free unions covered them with a mantle of respectability."

RESUME TALKS

New York.—Contract negotiations have been resumed by the AFL National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots and Atlantic and Gulf Coast ship owners.

ATTEND THE 5TH AFL UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

KEEP IT RINGING!

AFL UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

MAY 6-13

DAILY—NOON TIL 11 P. M.

ADMISSION FREE

CONVENTION HALL PHILADELPHIA

THE WORLD'S GREATEST LABOR-MANAGEMENT SHOW

You'll Get A Big Kick Out Of It!

It is the only one of its kind and is scheduled May 6-13 at Convention Hall in Philadelphia. We want to make it the biggest and best ever held. In order that it will be the sensational success that other one has been, we appeal to all national and international unions of the American Federation of Labor to participate in this unique labor-management exhibition.

Good relations—co-operation between labor and management—is one of the worthy goals of our Union Industries Shows. Public good will of American consumers is another objective. We anticipate that half a million people will see this spectacular AFL-union event. Admission is free and valuable prizes will be given away.

Over one and a half running miles of brilliant displays of hi-quality, union-made products and exciting demonstrations of efficient union services—marvels of union worker's techniques—will be seen in the huge auditoriums of famous Convention Hall.

It will be a grand and glorious feeling for all Americans who take pride in our system of free enterprise to witness the human element—the expert craftsmanship—which is emphasized in addition to commercial values at our now-famous Show.

Visitors will also get a big kick out of the music, the contests, the entertainment and U.S. armed forces' displays in addition to the gorgeous exhibits during the 8-day, action-packed, round-up of union-made-in-America merchandise and union services.

Let's prove to the world that they are tops!

HOLD ON TO YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

LOSS OF YOUR CARD MEANS WAITING FOR REPLACEMENT

YOU MAY NEED IT AT ONCE WHEN YOU START WORK ON A NEW JOB OR FILE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

For More Information Consult Your Union Social Security Committee OR the Nearest Social Security Office.

Stronger Labor Department Asked By Next May 13

Washington.—President Truman's 21 government reorganization orders, sent to Congress March 13 include 3 affecting the U. S. Department of Labor, and propose to give 2 important functions to the department.

They become effective in 60 days or May 13 unless vetoed by vote of a majority of the members of either house of Congress. The AFL favors strengthening the department.

The Bureau of Employees' Compensation is transferred to the department from the Federal Security Agency by Reorganization Plan No. 19, and responsibility for coordination of the enforcement of wages and hours legislation affecting federal or federally financed contracts is placed in the Secretary of Labor by Reorganization Plan No. 14. These two steps will further strengthen the department's authority and responsibility for governmental programs protecting the welfare of wage earners.

Other important changes, proposed in Reorganization Plan 6, include the establishment of an administrative assistant secretary of labor and transfer to the Secretary of Labor all functions of all other officers of the department and all functions of all agencies and employees of the department, consolidating and strengthening his authority.

Reorganization Plan No. 14 provides for coordination through the Secretary of Labor of the enforcement of the labor-standards provisions included in various statutes relating to federal construction and public works or to construction with federally financed assistance or guarantees. The Secretary of Labor is authorized to prescribe appropriate standards, regulations and procedures and to make investigations concerning compliance with and enforcement of labor standards. The purpose is to assure consistent and effective enforcement of such standards.

Plan No. 19 carries out a specific recommendation of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government by transferring from the FSA to the Department of Labor the Bureau of Employees' Compensation Appeals Board, and their functions. The present staff of approximately 460 employees currently employed in Washington and in the field will transfer to the Department of Labor.

Four major groups of employers are covered by this system, including 2,000,000 federal employees, 500,000 longshorement and harbor workers, 250,000 industrial employees in the District of Columbia and an estimated 100,000 employees of private contractors located at overseas United States bases. These workers in 1949 suffered more than 200,000 injuries, of which 30,000 resulted in claims for compensation.

HAILS ICFTU

New York.—President Max Zaritsky of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers hailed the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as a world bulwark for democracy and freedom.

Mr. Zaritsky praised the new international labor organization created by the AFL and other free unions last December in London in an interview for "Voice of America."

The interview was conducted by Listen Oak, labor director for "Voice of America," and broadcast in many languages around the world.

Mr. Zaritsky recalled the early struggles of the hatters, cap makers and millinery workers, told of the advances in wages, hours, working conditions and social welfare programs achieved by his union, and discussed the role of free labor in a peaceful world.

In speaking to the workers behind the Iron Curtain, Mr. Zaritsky told them of the early days of the American trade union movement and stressed the tremendous gains made by free workers organized in a free democratic trade union movement.

Washington.—AFL President William Green told AFL organizers that "we can pay no more fitting and appropriate tribute" to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, than "to bring 1,000,000 new trade unionists into the House of Labor."

Mr. Green said all branches of the AFL must cooperate if the goal is to be reached. He said the field is broad and urged the organizers to devote all of their time to the job.

"Though the task is difficult, it is far from impossible," he said. "We are counting upon you to deliver 1,000,000 new members in 1950."

Mr. Green laid down the objective and stated what he feels will be needed to realize it.

"Militant and aggressive teamwork on the part of all parties concerned is vitally necessary to the achievement of our objective," Mr. Green said.

"This organizing drive is designed to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers. We can pay no more fitting and appropriate tribute to his memory than to bring a million new trade unionists into the House of Labor, which he spent his lifetime in building. The American Federation of Labor is a monument to Samuel Gompers and every new member adds to the stature of that monument.

"In devoting his life to the organization of the unorganized, Samuel Gompers broke the trail which we are following today. In this centennial year of his birth there is no better way by which we can show that his memory has not dimmed and that his lessons have not been forgotten than by pursuing with renewed energy and concerted vigor our primary purpose—to organize the unorganized and to reorganize the disorganized."

Mr. Green said all AFL branches must help in the drive. He said:

"I am therefore calling upon you now to devote to this task a higher degree of effort, initiative and ability than has ever been demanded of you heretofore.

"We must do everything in our power to extend to all of the unorganized workers of America the opportunity of trade union membership and to pen their eyes to the fact that to be called a good trade unionist is the highest praise to which a free workman can aspire. We must organize the unorganized and keep them organized by giving them service of such quality as to convince them of the reality of the benefits that flow from union membership.

"The organizer in the field is the spine and sinew of the trade union movement. It is up to you to form the spearhead of this membership drive, to take labor's message into every hamlet in America. Without your enthusiasm and energy we would have little hope of reaching our goal. Each of you should feel yourself individually responsible for the success of this vital undertaking.

"Equally as important as alert and aggressive individual action, is the requirement that cooperation be complete among the officers and members of the State Federations of Labor, the organizing staffs of affiliated national and international unions, and the organizing staff of the American Federation of Labor. Coordinated action and absolute teamwork must be regarded as essential."

Mr. Green said the organizing field is broad. He said:

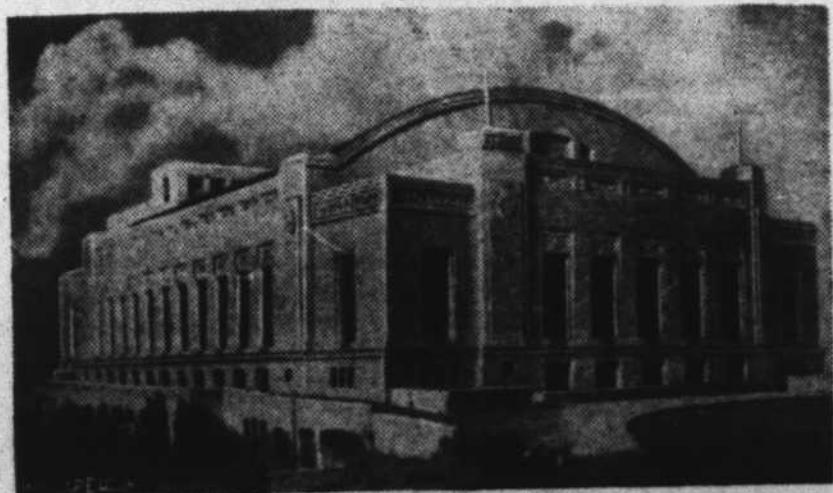
"A wide field for potential organization awaits you. About half of the workers in this country who are eligible for union membership have yet to be organized. Unorganized workers are to be found in virtually every trade and industry. Large numbers exist in the various types of food processing industries, the chemical industry, textiles, lumber manufacturing, furniture and household equipment, and other manufacturing enterprises.

"The great majority of those workers to whom the benefits of union membership have yet to be extended are, however, to be found in nonmanufacturing employment and the service trades.

"We have hardly more than scratched the surface of the great

(Continued on Page 4)

Site of Union Industries Show



Philadelphia.—This is the huge Convention Hall—scene of many nationally historic occasions—where one more great event will be held when the AFL Union Industries Show opens there May 6 to run to May 13. More than 500,000 visitors are expected to see the show. The AFL executive council, American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor and the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor will meet concurrently with the show.