

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

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

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

Dedicated to the Continued Industrial Growth of North Carolina

VOL. XIX; NO. 51

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1950

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year

## Protest to President Truman

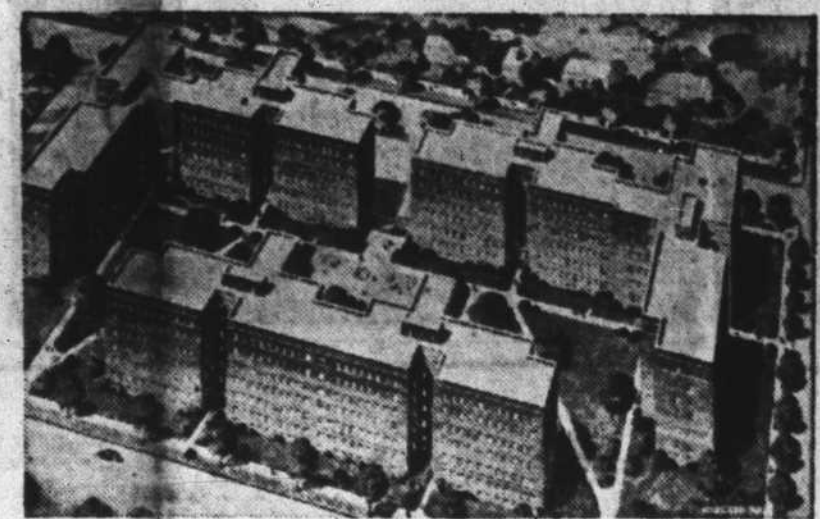


Washington.—AFL spokesmen asked Chief Executive to reverse postmaster general's ruling giving skilled work to lower-paid employees which AFL says is an "unfair labor practice that would not be tolerated in private industry." Emerging from the White House (l. to r.) are Leo M. George, president National Federation of Post Office Clerks; W. M. Thomas, president Railway Mail Association; AFL Vice-President W. C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers, and AFL President William Green.



**C. J. HAGGERTY**  
San Francisco.—C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, was appointed to the board of regents of the University of California by Governor Warren.  
Haggerty succeeded Herbert Fleishacker, San Francisco financier, whose term had expired.

## Congress No Stop This Co-OP Housing



Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans in congress killed off—at the persuasion of the real estate lobby—cooperative housing for middle-income families. But they didn't stop this project sponsored by the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America. Shown is the architect's drawing of the Harry Silver Apartments to accommodate 288 families who will pay \$240 down and \$14 per room per month. AFL unions and other middle-income groups were ready to undertake hundreds of these low-cost decent housing projects if congress had merely guaranteed loans by private lenders. Exorbitant interest, speculative profits will block nationwide development of this kind of decent housing.

## U. S. Labor Honors Oldenbroek



Washington.—All branches of organized labor in the United States joined with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations to honor J. H. Oldenbroek, secretary-general of the new anti-Communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, on his first official visit to this country. In the top photo, l. to r., are Allan S. Haywood, vice-president of the CIO and personal representative of CIO President Philip Murray; AFL Vice-President George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and Mr. Oldenbroek, the guest of honor.  
Second photo, l. to r., Fred H. Cooney, grand lodge representative of the International Association of Machinists, representing Machinists President A. J. Hayes; President H. W. Frazer of the Railway Labor Executives Association who is also president of the independent Order of Railway Conductors, and Bert M. Jewell, labor adviser to the Economic Cooperation Administration and former president of the AFL Railway Employees Department.  
Third photo, l. to r., Cecil Owen, assistant editor The United Mine Workers Journal; W. A. Boyle of Montana and John J. Maton of Pennsylvania, members of the United Mine Workers executive board and representatives of Miners President John L. Lewis.  
Bottom photo, l. to r., A. E. Lyon, executive secretary Railway Labor Executives Association; Assistant Secretary of Labor Philip M. Kaiser, and CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg.

## Business May Get Point

**BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN.**  
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service  
New York.—The equivalent of a slightly worried frown is a lead story in the well-informed Business Week magazine which is headlined, "Unemployment, Prosperity, Strange Pair."  
The article indicates that industry's intellectuals aren't quite sure they know how to solve the dilemma of rising productive (meaning lots more goods 'n everything produced) with increasing unemployment (meaning nobody with cash to buy said goods 'n everything).  
What is of some moment is that Business Week, which on some occasions can announce boldly that

the emperor has no clothes, concedes that pump-priming is under consideration by the Truman administration as a necessity "any time you can't see evident—and rapid—expansion of business ahead" and lets the matter lay there without warning or stricture.  
Actually, Business Week has recognized what AFL unionists have warned about for months and months—"the creeping growth of unemployment in the midst of prosperity," as the influential periodical describes it, pointing out that "this new kind of boom, this first peacetime boom in 20 years, has some dangerous things built into it." The dangers are:  
1. Each year 600,000 new workers start job hunting.  
2. Labor productivity is on the rise—"But it means that each year it takes fewer workers to turn out the same volume of goods and services."  
"What this means," says Business Week, "is plain: Business has got to run mighty fast for the economy to stay where it is. The only safe level of business is a level that's rising—rising as fast as population and productivity combined."  
The article cites on significant statistic:  
Output of goods and services in 1949 was about \$259,000,000,000. Adjusting this output for price differences, the total is about the same as it was in 1948—BUT; last year it took 3 percent fewer workers to produce this same output.  
"Almost every manufacturer," says Business Week in this survey, "thinks that productivity will keep on improving in 1950 and 1951. If they are right, total production in 1950 can easily match 1949 or 1948 even while unemployment is rising. Again it will take fewer workers to turn out the volume of goods and services."  
The same trend is evident in agriculture, where "the agricultural industry could even increase output and continue to reduce its number of workers."  
It is important to note that this analysis offers no suggestion, no programmatic line for coping with unemployment which is already 4.

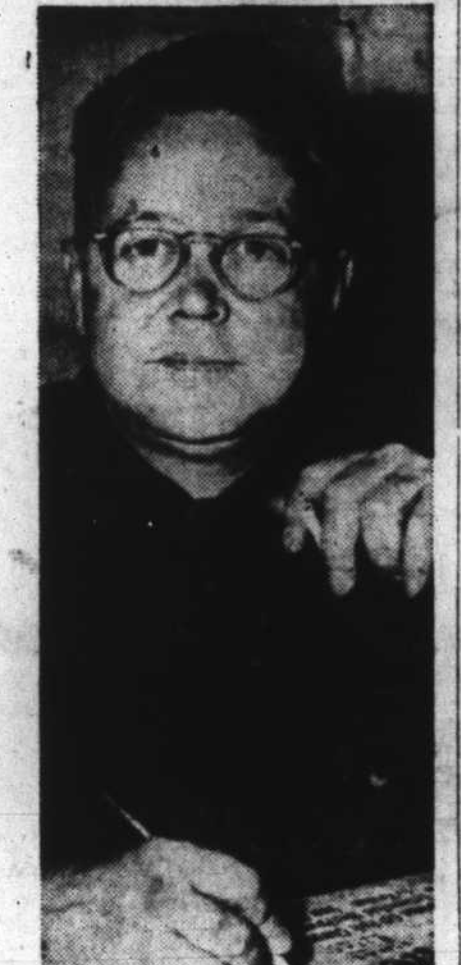
## Frank Edwards Replies To Saturday Evening Post

**BY FRANK EDWARDS.**  
Mr. Edwards demonstrating the value of the AFL sponsored newscast over 153 stations, devoted a portion of his March 6 commentary to a reply to another smear by the Saturday Evening Post which refuses the AFL space to comment or reply to its assertions. This is an excerpt from Mr. Edwards script:  
Washington.—Let's take a look at the lead editorial in the current issue of the once great Saturday Evening Post.  
The headline poses a question: "Must propaganda be the monopoly of our leftists?"  
The editorial starts off with a magnificent piece of piffle, "Political pressure is pretty nearly a left wing monopoly these days."  
Big business and big banking spend 8 times as much for lobbying as all their so-called leftist opponents combined. Free speech is so nearly non-existent that it exists only in fragmentary form where it can be found at all. You can count the real independent newspapers of this country of one hand.  
The editorial then proceeds to add injury to insult by charging the American Federation of Labor with violating the Taft-Hartley law. I'll show you how their next bit of fakery works out. Paragraph 2 says: "The AFL decided at its last convention to assess its 7,000,000 members \$2 apiece for 'political education' work during the 1950 elections. It is committed to defeat 8 Republican Senators including Robert A. Taft and is putting its money and pull behind 5 Democrats and 3 Republicans."  
The first part of that quotation is another outright phony. The editors of the Saturday Evening Post cannot show their readers any proof that AFL assessed its members \$2 as charged. They can't back up that statement because it is pure fiction as they serve it up to their audience. Under the recently deflated Taft-Hartley Act, the AFL would be guilty of law

violation if it assessed its members as the Post charges.  
Thenext paragraph of this wild-eyed editorial says that the "political education" campaign has already begun with a 5-night-a-week commentary from Washington. I appreciate that free advertising even from the Saturday Evening Post. I notice that they hedge their identification of the program with quote marks . . . and for good reason. Perhaps they felt that it would be difficult to prove that this particular program was actually political education . . . but they still wanted to brand it as such if they could get away with it.  
It is gratifying to think that our little program has caused the jaundiced old Post so much concern. There are 3,000 broadcasting stations in the United States; we reach about 150 of them. The Post calls it a monopoly. Three thousand broadcasting stations in the United States. Labor groups own fewer than 12, 10 of them in the smallest category. The Post calls that pressure. What kind, gentlemen. Low pressure?  
If labor had no radio with which to reach its members . . . it would certainly not be able to reach them or the American public, thru the Saturday Evening Post. This fulminating old fogey indicted itself when it ran an article on the Taft-Hartley law in October 1947. The article was written by J. M. Swigert who just HAPPEN to be a law partner of Taft . . . and oddly enough . . . he found the law to be a fine thing . . . a finding which recent events have exposed as fallacious.  
That article was so biased that William Green, president of the AFL, asked for permission to answer it thru the columns of the Post. He got a letter from Ben Hibbs, editor of the Post, who said: "We do not consider the Post as a forum type publication which must always devote equal space to both sides of any topic. We frankly take sides on many important

questions and we believe this to be our right."  
There, in the words of its own editor, the Post admits that it is one-sided and biased . . . and that it intends to stay that way.  
Now, in their current issue, they throw the label "leftist" at the AFL.  
In fact, gentlemen of the Post, the AFL has been fighting communism, day in and day out, in both words and deeds, longer and harder than anyone in the United States . . . including the Post.  
They are far from left . . . and your editorial is far from right!

## Arouses Voters



Chicago.—Vic Barnes, news-caster for WCFL, Chicago Federation of Labor station, received requests from New York, South Carolina and Texas when he recently offered a schedule of voters' registration dates for Chicago and Cook County. The out-of-town requests were turned over to Labor League for Political Education in those states.

produced under decent working standards. It is an emblem to attest the harmony between the worker and industry.  
"Each year the list of industries cooperating with this fine enterprise on the part of the American Federation of Labor is impressive evidence of the essential spirit of progress that dominates the American economy. I am interested to see that the list of participating industries this year represents so many fields of American production."  
"Please express to all who are taking part this year my good wishes for the success of the exhibit."  
(Continued On Page 4)

## Beck Says Hawaii Unions Will Grow

Honolulu, Hawaii.—Dave Beck, executive vice president of the AFL Teamsters Union, said that the labor movement in Hawaii "has all of its future before it and the ground has hardly been scratched."  
Mr. Beck made several speeches during a visit here to advise Teamsters locals and get acquainted with the economic setup of the islands.  
"I am certain," he said in a statement, "that time will assist in changing the minds of those who are set against us now into a full realization that only by the fullest cooperation of capital and labor can the economics of the islands prosper into complete success and gainful occupations for the people of this garden spot."  
Speaking to the Rotary Club, he boosted free enterprise, endorsed statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, and called upon capital and labor to fight the common enemy of communism. He said he was disappointed at seeing Pearl Harbor and other military installations cut in strength.  
Mr. Beck was accompanied to the islands by his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Cessert, Seattle, Wash.; Sinar Mohn, Teamsters regional director; Ray Lehaney, public relations officer, and William E. Franklin, Teamsters dairy council director.

## President Truman Hails A. F. of L. Union Show

Washington.—President Truman endorsed the principle of the AFL Union Industries Show in a message to Matthew Woll, director of the unique labor-management exhibition to be held May 6-13 at Convention Hall in Philadelphia. Mr. Truman said:  
"One of the finest demonstrations of the value of teamwork between management and labor in the United States is provided in the Union Industries Show sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.  
"The label is a hallmark by which the consumer may know that the article he is buying has been

produced under decent working standards. It is an emblem to attest the harmony between the worker and industry.  
"Each year the list of industries cooperating with this fine enterprise on the part of the American Federation of Labor is impressive evidence of the essential spirit of progress that dominates the American economy. I am interested to see that the list of participating industries this year represents so many fields of American production."  
"Please express to all who are taking part this year my good wishes for the success of the exhibit."  
(Continued On Page 4)

## Meany Given Lifetime Card



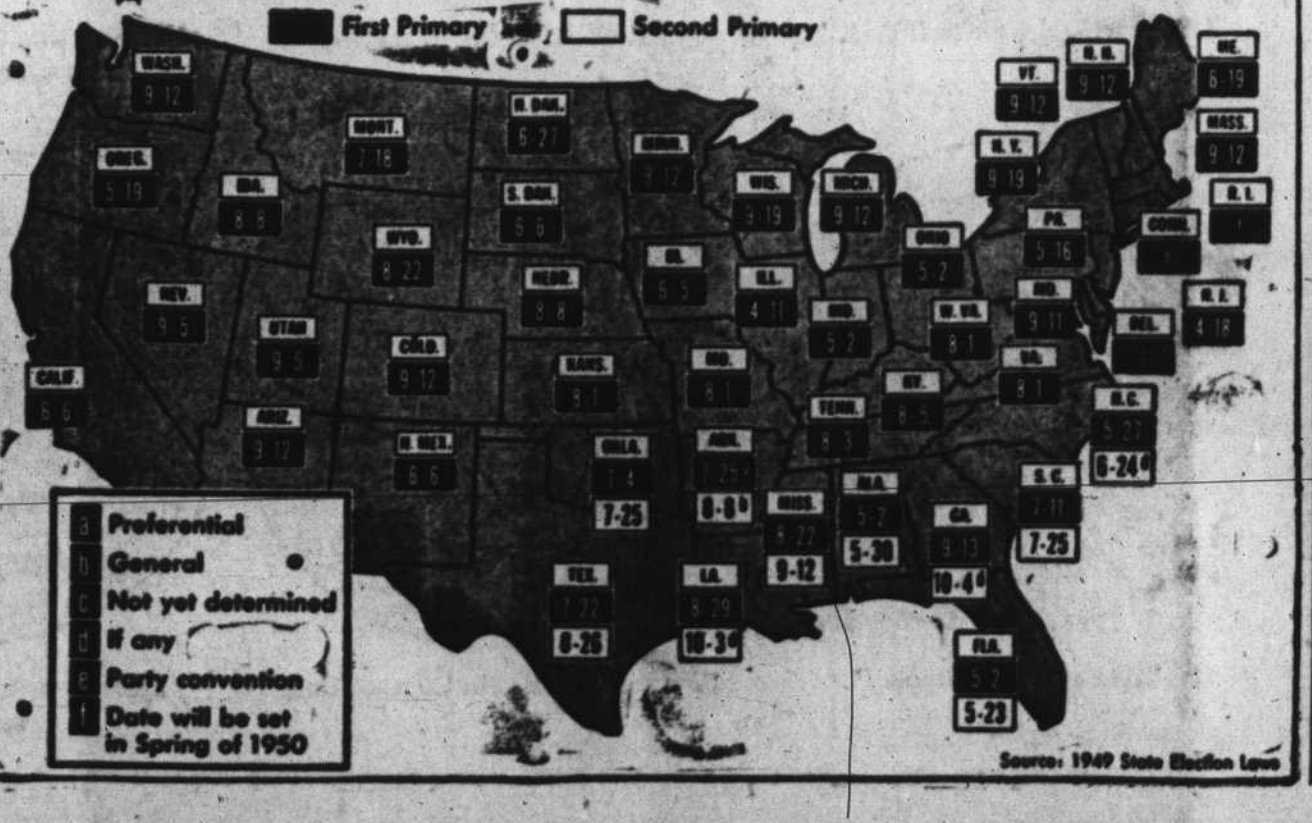
Chicago.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany is presented with gold honorary membership card in Plumbers Local Union 130 at ceremony in connection with dinner of trade union division of the Chicago Israel Histradrut. L. to r. are President Reuben G. Soderstrom of Illinois State Federation of Labor; Mr. Meany; President Stephen M. Bailey of Local 130, Chicago; Secretary-Treasurer Walter J. Plotke, Local 130; President William Dodd of Plumbers Local 2, New York City. Mr. Meany is a member of Local 2 and past president of the New York State Federation of Labor.

## North Carolina AFL On The Air



Asheville, N. C.—John W. Pierce (left), international representative of the AFL United Textile Workers, interviews North Carolina Commissioner of Labor Forrest H. Shuford, who reported that 65,000 North Carolinians received a wage boost as a result of the hike in the federal minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour. The interview was broadcast by Station WLOS on its regular Saturday public service program, "News of Labor," on the air since April, 1949.

## Dates of 1950 Primary Elections



## Gompers Memorial Held In Paris

Paris.— Boris Shishkin, left, AFL economist on leave to serve with the Economic Cooperation Administration, addresses luncheon commemorating 100th birthday of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor. Facing Mr. Shishkin are, left, Foster Pratt, former president of the AFL Federation of Technical Engineers, and, far right, Neil Miller, former editor of the AFL News Service.